



# Newsletter



Capturing wisdom on how to break the link between hunger and conflict, our panel at RUSI: clockwise, Lord Richards, Sir Graham Stacey, Donna Gavin, Geraldine O'Callaghan

## What's inside?

### Message from our CEO

I am delighted to introduce our second newsletter with hot off-the-press news, that Lyn Brown, former Shadow Minister for Africa and MP for West Ham from 2005 to 2024, has agreed to take up the role of co-Chair of the Board of United Against Malnutrition and Hunger.

Throughout her career, Lyn has shown her commitment to addressing injustice and poverty both at home and abroad and we are delighted that she will be bringing her experience and wisdom to our work. We have also welcomed three new cross-party patrons to UAMH since our last newsletter, Lord Boateng, Baroness Featherstone, and Baroness Hodgson, underlining our commitment to cross-party working.

The past six months have seen significant changes in UK and global politics and no respite in the devastating consequence of malnutrition



**We Are What We Eat!**  
Engaging the public on malnutrition with our exhibit at a Science Museum Lates



**UAMH at the party conferences**  
Different political perspectives championing nutrition



**Meeting of minds at RUSI**  
Leaders from the military, NGOs, and MPs share insight on conflict-driven hunger

# What has been happening at UAMH



Lyn Brown, co-Chair of United Against Malnutrition & Hunger

worldwide. The UK General Election resulted in a parliament in which – for the first time in its history – over half of the members of the House of Commons are newly elected. This provides a unique opportunity to engage with new MPs to increase understanding of the foundational nature of nutrition to development and the geopolitical implications of growing hunger worldwide.

The appointment of the former co-Chair of the APPG on Nutrition for Development, Lord Ray Collins as the new Minister for Africa was very welcome news. It is reassuring to have such a longstanding advocate for nutrition in this role, particularly in the lead-up to the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris next March, where we are urging the UK to make an ambitious commitment and to put itself once again at the heart of global efforts to combat malnutrition.

Less positive was the decision in the recent Budget to cut aid spending further. While the current environment can feel bleak, one glimmer of optimism is the trajectory of Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending under previous Labour governments, which have made initial cuts but have ended their term in office with a higher share of GNI spent on ODA than they inherited when they came into government.

Over the coming year, we look forward to introducing more parliamentarians to our UK and Global South Expert Advisers in nutrition, science, research, the military, and public health, to make the case that Britain should mobilise the breadth of its expertise and resources in the global fight against malnutrition and hunger.

## Pledge to be a Global Nutrition Champion

If you want to join us in working towards a future where no child dies of malnutrition, take our Nutrition Champions Pledge [here](#).

## Highlights and events



UNICEF's Stanley Chitekwe (centre) opposite Jonny Oates with Tan Dhesi MP in the foreground

## Hunger's link with tropical diseases in Ethiopia

**May.** Just as no man is an island, the world's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are interconnected. Since consuming nutritious food is foundational to both individual and global development, reaching SDG2 Zero Hunger is related to achieving other goals including health (SDG3), education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), clean water and sanitation (SDG6), economic growth (SDG8), reducing inequality (SDG10), climate action (SDG13) and peace (SDG16). To understand more, download our essential briefing [Why Nutrition is Foundational to Development](#).

This interconnectedness is why UAMH's CEO Jonny Oates is a member of the APPG on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases and was a delegate on the group's visit to Ethiopia.

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), e.g. intestinal infections like worms, are linked with malnutrition and stunted growth. Stunting – a condition caused by malnutrition impairing childhood growth and development – is a huge problem in Ethiopia, affecting more than 5.4 million children, 39% of whom are under the age of five.

UNICEF Ethiopia is working to meet that challenge, and Jonny Oates and fellow delegates, former MP Patrick Grady and Tan Dhesi MP for Slough, met with its Chief of Nutrition, Stanley Chitekwe, and colleagues including Dr Ramadhani Noor and Ngozi Kennedy.

Mr Chitekwe explained how the NGO works with the country's government and other partners to support young children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women, particularly in emergencies. Preventative treatments – such as vitamin A, albendazole, iron, and folic acid supplements – are being scaled up in national and community programmes with health workers sharing nutrition knowledge in rural and urban settings.

A malnourished child is 11 times more likely to die from an infectious disease and the delegation heard about an initiative to address both. UNICEF Ethiopia is delivering a new US\$30 million programme that integrates nutrition and immunisation interventions, funded and coordinated by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, with support from the UK through Gavi's Matching Fund mechanism. It aims to reach at least 10% of the population, which is a challenge in remote or displaced communities.

The delegates also met with Wondimagegn Nigussie, Program Director at Action Against Hunger's Ethiopia Mission. The Mission has been working in Ethiopia since 1985 and has 860 staff operating across six regions, 58 woredas (districts), and five refugee camps.

Along with colleagues, Mr Nigussie provided a comprehensive briefing on the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, and how multiple outbreaks of diseases including malaria damage nutrition.

## Africa Business Forum

**May.** Our CEO Jonny Oates is Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Africa, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. In this role, he was the keynote speaker at this year's Africa Business Forum, held by the African Business Chamber at the Birmingham City Business School.

Addressing the audience, Lord Oates, spoke about the link between hunger and prosperity: "One key area where development assistance links into economic and business priorities is in the field of malnutrition, which has a highly damaging impact on economic productivity," he said.

"A study published by *The Lancet* in March 2022 found that stunting due to malnutrition had long-term impacts including decreased physical and cognitive development, low educational attainment, and low productivity. Malnutrition and hunger also drive instability and security challenges which are harmful to business and society."



In Ethiopia, less than half the population has access to basic drinking water, 9% to basic sanitation, and only 8% to basic hygiene services. Gender-based violence is also of huge concern in the country's most volatile areas. Action Against Hunger is working to improve WASH services and ensure women and girls can access the help they need.



## H4A Empty Plates campaign

**July.** Amy Smith, UAMH Head of Advocacy stood in solidarity alongside nutrition allies taking part in Hungry for Action's #EmptyPlates campaign in London's Kings Cross.

The campaign was to raise awareness about global hunger and coincided with Brazil's announcement of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and the launch of the United Nations 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report.

Local chefs, including BOSH TV's Ian and Henry, and Bettina's Kitchen, served more than 750 empty plates to passers-by. Each plate represented a million people going hungry worldwide. Hungry for Action is a global campaign and empty plates were also handed out at the Museum of Tomorrow in Rio de Janeiro.

## We Are What We Eat!

**September.** Getting the British public to connect with global hunger is a challenge.

Making that connection was the purpose of *We Are What We Eat!* the exhibit we staged in partnership with the University of Sheffield's Institute for Sustainable Food, at a Science Museum Lates event.

Together we told the story of how poverty and poor soil reduce the nutrients children eat causing malnutrition, and the solution scientists have invented to prevent it.

A customised bike trailer, verdant with four tiers of fragrant tomato and basil plants was our stand's showstopper. This novel hydroponic crop-growing system had been built by Jacob Nickles, a Research Fellow at The University of Sheffield.

Each tier was filled with a different growing medium, demonstrating how plants mature in degraded soil, average soil, expanded clay, and nutrient-infused polyurethane foam. Plants in the foam were flourishing.

Hydroponics use up to 95% less water than conventional agriculture, and growing crops in old mattresses had been Dr Moaed Al Meselmani's idea. Originally from Syria, he pioneered a hydroponic system in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan, an environment beset by poverty and poor soil but abundant in foam mattresses as it is where thousands of displaced Syrians live.

Being deprived of nutrients in infancy, damages physical and cognitive development. Lates visitors were visibly dismayed when they lifted and compared two hessian sacks, each filled with rice to the heft of a two-year-old child. One sack weighed 12kg – typical of a nourished child. The other was almost a third lighter at 8.5kg, the average weight of a malnourished toddler.

In the real world, those children develop into five-year-olds, represented on the right as cardboard



Visitors compare the weight of hessian sacks representing two-year-olds



Dr Moaed Al Meselmani showing a foam block to visitors

silhouettes by a height chart. Our nourished child was 110cm tall. Their 95.5cm companion had a far smaller stature because stunting affects the person's entire physical and mental development.

Sometimes simple technologies are the most effective. An example is mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) bands, universally used to diagnose malnutrition in infants from six months to five years in need of urgent treatment.

The bands are colour-coded. Red indicates severe acute malnutrition, yellow is moderate acute malnutrition, and green is nourished. In the red zone, the band's circumference is the size of a bottle top. So, the fact that malnutrition is preventable and remedied with simple, cost-effective treatments such as packets of ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF) and bottles of antenatal multiple micronutrients (MMS) was greeted by visitors as welcome news indeed.

Having learned more about global malnutrition, visitors agreed it is an unacceptable reality in the twenty-first century. No one should die from it, and everyone should have the nutrition they need to thrive.

Read the full story [here](#).

## UAMH events at the party conferences

**September and October.** Parliamentarians have the power to help turn the tide on global hunger.

So, it was encouraging that all three events UAMH staged at the main political parties' conferences were well attended and produced energetic discussions.

We kicked off our engagement at the Liberal Democrats' upbeat conference in Brighton. The party has a proudly internationalist stance, and its spokesperson on international development Monica Harding MP for Esher and Walton was a panellist at our event.

*Tackling the deadly cycle of conflict and malnutrition* was chaired by UAMH CEO Jonny Oates and presented in partnership with Action Against Hunger and MAG (Mines Advisory Group). Monica and Jonny were

joined by Giulia Conto, Conflict and Hunger Advocacy Manager at Action Against Hunger, and Najat El Hamri, the Middle East Regional Director for MAG.

The plight of the most vulnerable people was a core theme. Women and girls are worst affected by food crises because they typically eat last and least. Children in conflict zones are twice as likely to be malnourished compared to children in stable areas.

Monica Harding spoke of how her visit to Kenya earlier this year with UAMH and UNICEF had inspired her to become a committed global nutrition champion, especially the poignancy of discovering MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) bands.

"I cannot tell you the huge impact seeing the tiny size of that band had on my children when I took one home to show them," Monica said, who now takes the bands to Parliament so colleagues can see them too.

Our event at the Labour Party conference was next. Staged with Action Against Hunger, *Partnerships for change: Improving health and nutrition outcomes for women and girls* was chaired by UAMH Head of Advocacy Amy Smith, with speakers Mary Kimani, Head of Department of Health and Nutrition, Action Against Hunger Kenya, Abtisam Mohamed MP for Sheffield Central, and Steve Race MP for Exeter.

The atmosphere at the conference was optimistic, reflected by our panellists who were all cognisant of intolerable gender inequality in global nutrition and determined to harness the opportunity of government to advance action to solve it.

Abtisam Mohamed said she was proud to have the Institute for Sustainable Food in her constituency, which is pioneering innovation to progress global food security. (Read about our Expert Adviser, Professor Bhavani Shankar from the Institute for Sustainable Food in the UAMH alliance news section of this newsletter.)



Labour conference: Steve Race MP, Amy Smith, Mary Kimani and Abtisam Mohamed MP



Steve Race, himself a delegate on the cross-party UAMH and UNICEF visit to Kenya, recounted how impressed he had been touring a factory in Nairobi making ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF).



*Food for empowerment: How can food security unlock the future of women and girls?* was the theme of the panel event at the Conservative Party Conference put on with our partner the Coalition for Global Prosperity (CGP). The lively lineup was led by Zoe Swanwick, Researcher at CGP, alongside Dame Harriett Baldwin, former Minister for Development, Kate Munro, Action Against Hunger's Head of Advocacy, UAMH's Amy Smith, and Rebecca Smith, Conservative MP for South West Devon.

All the panellists agreed that the deep injustice in women and girls' access to nutrition is indefensible and addressing it should be an international development priority.

Amy Smith led our activity at the conferences. "Our events demonstrate there are committed MPs from different political perspectives all determined that nutrition should be an international development priority for the UK," she said.

Read the full story [here](#).



Steve Race MP, Baroness Featherstone, Johanna Konta, Jonny Oates, Baroness Sugg

## Sport, Parliament and philanthropy unite for maternal nutrition

**October.** Sport binds people together in a collective celebration of the efforts and achievements of powerful, healthy athletes at the top of their game.

So, on World Food Day 16 October, we united with the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to host a Parliamentary roundtable and draw attention to the inequity of global maternal nutrition.

Today, despite having higher and additional nutritional needs than men and boys, one billion women and adolescent girls suffer from malnutrition worldwide. Typically eating last and least, gender discrimination makes them more vulnerable to this entirely preventable condition.

That injustice motivated our guest speaker, former British tennis champion Johanna Konta, at the time expecting her second child, to attend the Parliamentary roundtable.

"Every child deserves an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. Of all the pregnant women in the world, I am one of the lucky ones," she said.

Former International Development Minister Baroness Featherstone opened the discussion. Other speakers included former Deputy Foreign Secretary Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP and UAMH CEO Jonny Oates.

There were lively contributions including from Steve Race, Labour MP for Exeter, Lord Bruce of Bennachie, Baroness Sugg, Terri Sarch from the FCDO, Amanda

Horton-Martin from the Wimbledon Foundation, Dianne Hayes from the WTA Foundation, Joanne Driels from the Gates Foundation, and Gemma Tumelty from the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), all emphasising their commitment to championing the cause.

Earlier this year the WTA Foundation launched the Global Women's Health Fund as part of their 'Women Change the Game' campaign. Mobilising private and public sector leaders, philanthropists, and the public, the fund will direct money raised to the UNICEF-led Child Nutrition Fund.

The initiative aims to support at least one million women worldwide in its first year, focussing on the delivery of antenatal MMS (multiple micronutrient supplementation) to women in lower-income countries. Evidence shows MMS can reduce infant death by 29%.

Women's empowerment is critical to the elimination of global malnutrition. Supporting it is in our interest to bring forward a fairer, safer more prosperous future. As Johanna Konta compellingly put it: "When we champion each other, we all truly win."

Read the full story [here](#).

## Capturing wisdom to break the deadly cycle of hunger and conflict

**November.** It is no coincidence that as more conflicts rage around the world than at any other period since the Second World War, the number of people facing hunger globally is soaring.

Examining this grim connection was the purpose of

*Hunger and Conflict: A Deadly Cycle*, the event held by UAMH at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).

As speaker General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, former Chief of the Defence Staff noted, the occasion was timely. He was joined by Air Marshal (Ret'd) Sir Graham Stacey who chaired the gathering, gender adviser to the British Army Donna Gavin, and Geraldine O'Callaghan, Director of the London office of the UN's World Food Programme. Dr Karin von Hippel, Director General of RUSI, introduced the proceedings.

The event was attended by Parliamentarians with experience in the armed forces and an interest in international development, as well as representatives from NGOs.

Here at UAMH, we believe that working as an alliance of experts contributing different perspectives and circles of influence is the most effective path to tackling global malnutrition and hunger.

The scale of the problem certainly requires an integrated approach. In 2023, the number of people suffering acute food insecurity rose by 24 million in one year, to a staggering 282 million people – meaning their lives and livelihoods were in immediate danger. Almost half – that is 135 million people – suffered conflict-driven hunger, making armed violence the biggest cause of hunger worldwide.

The consequences spread beyond borders. Where extreme hunger and child deaths fester, so do anger, instability, and violence, exerting a powerful



destabilising effect on communities and countries around the world.

All four speakers looked at the problem through a different lens. The discussion opened with a compelling summary by Sir Graham Stacey, former Chief of Staff for NATO transformation and a UAMH Expert Adviser.

Throughout history, as now, food has been wielded as a weapon of war leaving people with two choices – to migrate or fight. Accelerating climate change is making bad situations far worse, he said.

Geraldine O'Callaghan recounted the dire experiences of her World Food Programme colleagues in Gaza and Sudan, and how respect for International Humanitarian Law is being eroded.

Attendees listened closely as Donna Gavin explained how hunger shapes human behaviour in conflict situations. People are driven by desperation.... "Women are trafficked. Girls are likely to be entered into early marriage to produce a dowry to feed their families," she said.

Lord Richards called on MPs in the room to persuade fellow Parliamentarians and the Government to place a greater focus on conflict prevention. He said he was a committed advocate for international development and ODA should be restored to 0.7% of GNI.

A cross-party group of MPs attended, including Alex Ballinger, Tan Dhesi, Richard Foord, Monica Harding, Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis, Helen Maguire, Calum Miller, Steve Race, David Reed, Sam Rushworth, and Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MBE.

NGOs provided valuable input, including Action Against Hunger, the International Committee of the Red Cross UK, Médecins Sans Frontières, Mercy Corps, Safer World, Save the Children, The Coalition for Global Prosperity, UNICEF, and World Vision.

Read our Event Report and Recommendations [here](#).



Tan Dhesi MP (foreground); The Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis MP (four down); Monica Harding MP (partially visible behind)

# UAMH alliance news

UAMH is a cross-party, cross-sector alliance pressing for global action on malnutrition and hunger.

## Our Patrons

We are delighted that The Rt Hon the Lord Boateng, The Rt Hon the Baroness Featherstone, and The Baroness Hodgson of Abinger CBE have joined the alliance as Patrons. They support the Board and Executive Team to raise the prominence of malnutrition and hunger with UK policymakers and the public.



**Lord Boateng** has been a Labour Member of the House of Lords since 2010. He was the Labour Member of Parliament for Brent South between 1987 and 2005 and became the UK's first Black Cabinet Minister in 2002 when he was appointed as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He also held positions including Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Health and the Home Office, Minister for Criminal Policy, Minister for Young People, Deputy Home Secretary, and Financial Secretary. Lord Boateng was Britain's High Commissioner to South Africa from 2005 to 2009. [Read Lord Boateng's full biography here.](#)



**Baroness Featherstone** has been a Liberal Democrat Member of the House of Lords since 2015. She was the Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Hornsey and Wood Green from 2005 to 2015, and served as Minister for Equalities, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development, and Minister of State for Crime Prevention at the Home Office during the Coalition Government. [Read Baroness Featherstone's full biography here.](#)



**Baroness Hodgson of Abinger** has been a Conservative Member of the House of Lords since 2013 and is a strong advocate for women's issues and international women's rights with a strong interest in International Development. In Parliament, she is the Co-Chair of the Women, Peace and Security Group and has previously sat on Lords' Select Committees on sexual violence in conflict, the rural economy, the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, and AI in weapons systems.

[Read Baroness Hodgson's full biography here.](#)

## Expert Advisers

Our Expert Advisers provide different perspectives and innovative thinking to support the Board and Executive Team. In each newsletter, we will get an insight into their journey into activism against malnutrition.



### Professor Bhavani Shankar

UAMH's newest Expert Adviser Professor Bhavani Shankar believes economics dictates most decision-making, especially for a person living in poverty.

"Food-related decisions are economic decisions too," he explains.

An economist and Professor of Food Systems, Nutrition, and Sustainability at the University of Sheffield's Institute for Sustainable Food, his work focuses on improving the access of disadvantaged communities and people to nutritious foods.

He was the team leader for the landmark 2023 report by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) *Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition* and co-leads a project researching how to use rural markets to deliver improved nutrition in two of the poorest states in India.

It was "unexpected and very exciting," he says to be named as one of ten 2024 Goalkeepers Champions by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The list spotlights individuals from across the globe leading the way towards a more nourished world and making transformative progress on tackling malnutrition.

The markets project, funded by BMGF and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), is trying out ideas and co-designing policy with the Indian Government.

"We can take existing markets and make them nutrition-friendly by ensuring availability of healthy foods, by improving food safety, and by providing spaces where women can feel comfortable, and safe areas where children can play," he says.

In the past decade, an interdisciplinary dialogue on nutrition has generated a far greater understanding of the links between agriculture and health. We know, he says, that "climate action is also good nutrition action," and "Investing in nutrition gives a lot of bang for the buck."

He – like us – is delighted to become part of the UAMH alliance, describing it as the glue binding nutrition allies, helping to translate research into messages that can connect with Parliamentarians. "It makes perfect sense for me to join," he says.

[Read his profile here](#) and biography [here](#).

## Sir Graham Stacey

**November.** Sir Graham chaired *Hunger and Conflict: A Deadly Cycle*, UAMH's event at RUSI.

Sir Graham's journey into activism began with a call asking if he would serve as a military assistant to the former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, working on peacebuilding in Bosnia.



"It was the beginning of my transition from traditional military operations into nation-building and post-conflict recovery," Sir Graham explains.

Moving up the ranks while serving in Iraq, Kosovo, and Afghanistan, he "was struck by the vicious circle between wars and combat and food security and hunger.

"Throughout history, food has been used as a weapon of war," he expands. "From biblical explanations of sowing salt into soil, to the scorched earth policy in the Second World War, to Gaza now."

Adopted in 2018, UN Security Resolution 2147 condemns the starving of civilians as a method of warfare. Nevertheless, food is wielded as a weapon of war on "a daily basis."

After leaving the military, the injustice of food inequality propelled Sir Graham to join UAMH's alliance.

The inflammatory influence of climate change has become increasingly apparent to him. "It is a multiplier that makes bad situations much worse," he says.

During his career, Sir Graham has witnessed hunger's palpable effect. "People become more interested in self-survival than society," he says. "It makes them more vulnerable to exploitation."

He believes a key to the solution is restructuring the world food system, "so people can plant the food they need and want to consume locally, rather than supply green beans for us to buy in Waitrose all year round. It is up to us to take responsibility for that too."

Read the full interview [here](#).



## UAMH in the media

Editorial timed to chime with politically salient events raised public awareness of global hunger.

### One year on from the outbreak of conflict in Sudan

**April.** Jonny Oates did interviews on LBC Radio with Lisa Aziz, and BBC News The World Today. He urged leaders to support NGOs responding to this forgotten crisis.



### World Hunger Day

**29th May.** The Telegraph published a letter signed by Former Defence and Development Ministers calling on political leaders to recognise the geopolitical significance of global hunger. The Rt Hon Rory Stewart OBE (Conservative); Baroness Lynne Featherstone (Liberal Democrat); and Lord Browne of Ladyton (Labour), wrote that tackling malnutrition and hunger is critical to the UK's security and foreign policy interests and we should be at the heart of international efforts to address it.

Jonny Oates' interviews on Times Radio and LBC News were amplified on local radio stations including Greatest Hits Cumbria and Jackie FM.

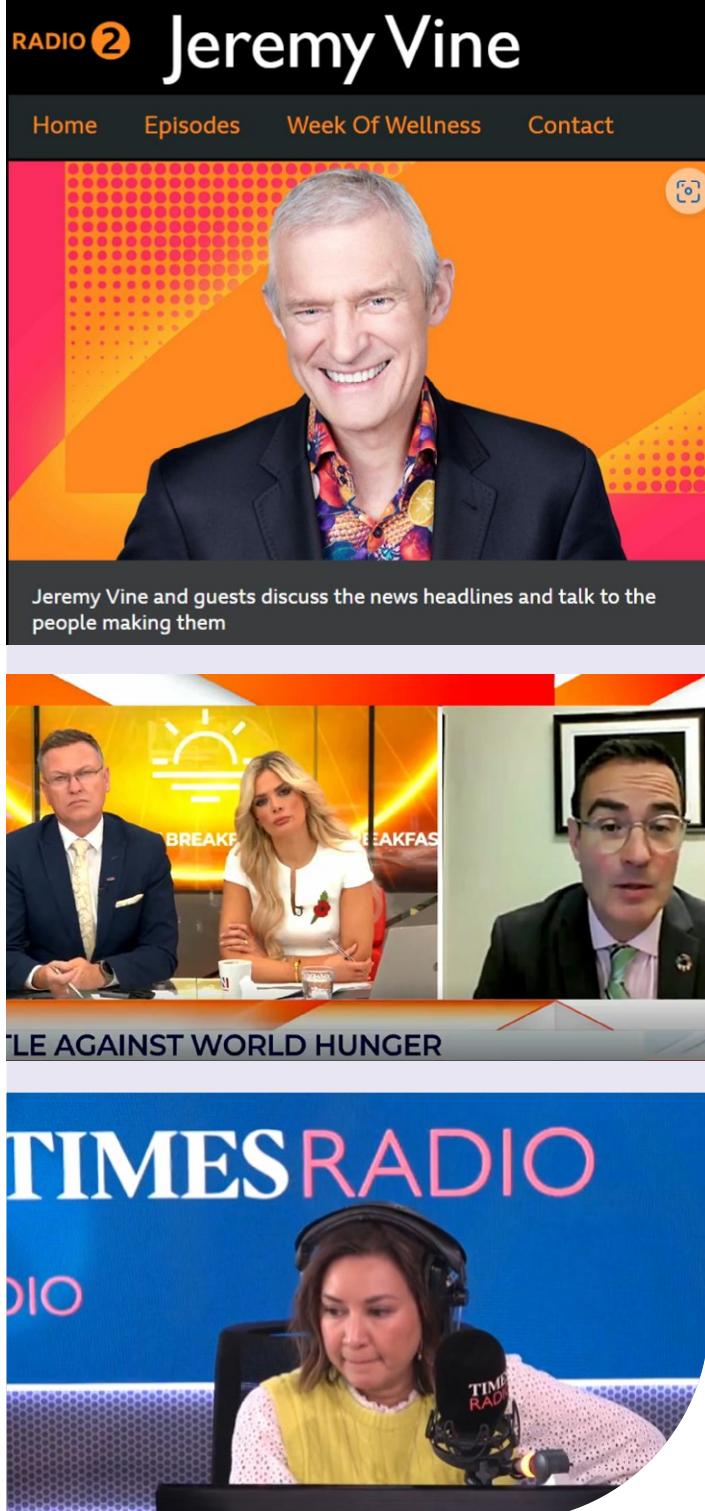
### 40 years after famine in Ethiopia

**October.** On 23rd October 1984, Michael Buerk's BBC broadcast alerted the world to famine in Ethiopia. Jonny Oates responded by boarding a plane to



Addis Ababa, aged fifteen and alone. It was the beginning of his journey and interest in international development, a story he told in broadcast interviews and an Op-Ed, making the case that the world responded to the famine in Ethiopia and should again now to famine in Sudan. Alongside Michael Buerk, he was Jeremy Vine's guest on his Radio 2 show. Fellow Parliamentarian Baroness Ayesha Hazarika invited him on her Times Radio show, and he did live broadcasts on LBC News and GB News.

Politics Home and The House Magazine published his Op-Ed, [40 years on from Ethiopia's catastrophic famine, progress has slid into reverse](#)



## News and views from Parliament

### General Election

July's General Election changed the composition of Parliament dramatically as 335 new MPs were elected, representing 49% of the total. When Parliament returned, we wrote to more than seventy MPs interested in international development, hunger, and conflict. The letters introduced UAMH, the issue of malnutrition, and how to tackle it. We included our essential briefings *Malnutrition 101*, and *Why Nutrition is Foundational to Development*, and provided information on the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Development for Nutrition. Consequently, we gained new allies.

### House of Commons

UAMH submits questions to MPs for FCDO and the Prime Minister's oral questions in Parliament. A committed group of cross-party MPs and Lords continue to submit our questions and their own to the Government.

**September.** Layla Moran MP and Dame Harriett Baldwin MP raised hunger primarily in Sudan and Gaza.

**November.** David Mundell MP asked for confirmation of the UK's support for the Global Alliance on Hunger and Poverty, which launched at the G20 in Brazil, and the forthcoming Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in Paris next March. Kim Johnson MP asked about unacceptable restrictions imposed on trucks attempting to deliver aid to Gaza. Alice Macdonald MP highlighted how British innovation is at the forefront of efforts to fight global hunger. Andrew Mitchell MP quoted Former US Secretary of Defence James Mattis who said that when spending on ODA goes down spending on defence rises. Steve Race MP requested confirmation that the Government is investing in the production of ready-to-use-therapeutic food, which is in short supply, but much needed to treat malnourished people in Sudan.

### House of Lords

UAMH provided briefings that Members of the House of Lords used in debates on children and conflict, Sudan, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In October, Baroness Featherstone also sponsored a debate on the fortieth anniversary of the famine in Ethiopia, at which Members spoke about the imperative to end the current famine in Sudan.

Contributions in the Lords across a range of debates included Minister for Africa, Lord Collins, who spoke on behalf of the Government and emphasised his long-standing commitment to fighting malnutrition and its tragic effects on young lives; Lord Bruce of

Bennachie who said fighting poverty, malnutrition, and hunger, providing clean water and sanitation, is both an ethical course of action and makes the world safer; Baroness Sugg who spoke about how hunger, conflict and climate change intersect, that children in conflict zones are twice as likely to be malnourished and that the Child Nutrition Fund is part of the solution; and Lord Browne of Ladyton who raised the catastrophic crisis in Sudan.

We are extremely grateful to members of both Houses who continue to champion good nutrition for all.

### APPG on Nutrition for Development

**October.** UAMH was appointed as the Secretariat of the reconstituted APPG on Nutrition for Development. We will work closely with the wider sector to achieve the APPG's aims and objectives and support members in advocating for global nutrition within the UK Parliament.

In addition to the day-to-day running of the Secretariat, we will focus on establishing engagements for the APPG which can bring in new voices, profile the work of the sector, champion UK science and innovation, and attract new MPs.

The N4G Summit in Paris in March 2025 will be a key focus for the group's activity.

**November.** The International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN) met the APPG to lay out its recommendations to the UK Government for N4G. ICAN advocates that N4G is an opportunity for the Government to change track from the 60% cut in ODA spending on nutrition made in 2021. ICAN is recommending the following action:

#### Financial asks

1. Commit to invest at least £500 million in nutrition-specific programmes between 2025-2030.

2. Maximise the impact of spending in other key areas, including health, agriculture, and climate by ensuring at least £2.5 billion of ODA is nutrition-sensitive between 2025-2030.

#### Policy asks

1. Set an ambition to reach at least fifty million children, women, and adolescent girls with nutrition-related interventions by 2030 and report yearly on how many people are reached with nutrition-specific interventions.

2. Integrate nutrition across development sectors, to make meaningful progress in tackling the underlying causes of malnutrition. This includes setting ambitious targets for integrating nutrition across climate, agriculture, health, WASH and social protection; and increasing nutrition-sensitive spending in these sectors in line with previous best practice.

3. Put gender equality at the heart of nutrition programmes by ensuring that at least 90% of nutrition spending is gender-sensitive.

4. Build on the UK's nutrition policy expertise by partnering with governments and research institutions to fund research in key areas such as preventing malnutrition, child wasting, adolescent nutrition and immunisation nutrition integration

5. Lead global accountability efforts by funding the Global Nutrition Report to enhance the Nutrition Accountability Framework, a critical tool to ensure governments follow through on their N4G commitments.

6. Strengthen partnerships with local civil society organisations so they can advocate for nutrition to their governments. Embed an advocacy component within FCDO nutrition programmes and commit to fund the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network.

You can follow the APPG on Nutrition for Development [@APPGNutrition](https://www.appgnutrition.org)



ICAN meeting with the APPG on Nutrition for Development, clockwise: Joanna Casson, World Vision UK; Rachel Hickman, Save the Children UK; Jack Feinmann, Action Against Hunger UK; Steve Race MP; David Mundell MP; Sungna Lakhani, Results UK; Alexandra Newlands, The SUN Civil Society Network; Mathilde Chiesa, Concern Worldwide UK; Aparna Barua Adams, Unlimit Health

# Recent reports, publications, and campaigns on nutrition from the sector

Malnutrition and hunger are intricately linked to the world's most pressing problems, and solutions to them. Conflict, accelerating climate change, gender inequality, and of course poverty are all drivers of the global hunger crisis and frequently intersect. These connections are explored in recent publications listed below.

## **Why Nutrition is Foundational to Development, an essential briefing from United Against Malnutrition & Hunger and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. Published in September**

This brief, which has been shared with Parliamentarians and is free to download, makes the case for reinstating nutrition as an international development priority.

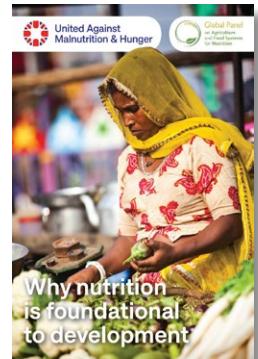
The case needs to be made because huge progress achieved in previous decades by the UK and its international partners, which resulted in a decline in global hunger, has slid into reverse. Today 783 million of the world's citizens face hunger. Currently, only 1% of global ODA (Official Development Assistance) is spent on nutrition.

The brief guides readers through nutrition's role in early childhood development, health, gender, education, food systems, climate change, and conflict. It contains key statistics, definitions, and recommendations to support

nutrition in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Professor Sandy Thomas, Director of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition said: "Access to good nutrition is key to unlocking progress towards shared global values and goals. Our evidence-based brief explains why accessible, safe, high-quality diets are foundational to achieving equality, security, and economic development for all."

Sir John Beddington, Chair of the Global Panel, and a UAMH Expert Adviser said: "Investment in better nutrition produces significant gains in human health and economic benefits. It is vital that resources are put to researching these issues and identifying sustainable solutions."

Read the full story [here](#).  
Download the brief [here](#).



[Hunger Hotspots. FAO–WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2024 to May 2025 outlook](#), GNAFC partners – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), November 2024

[Nutrition and climate integration for transformative actions](#), Concern Worldwide, October 2024

[Malnutrition 101](#), United Against Malnutrition & Hunger, updated September 2024

[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) Report – 2024](#), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO), July 2024

[Healthier Pregnancies and Brighter Futures for Mothers and Babies: A global investment roadmap for multiple micronutrient supplementation](#), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Eleanor Crook Foundation, and Kirk Humanitarian, May 2024

[Between Life and Debt](#), Christian Aid, May 2024

To receive this newsletter and find out more about United Against Malnutrition & Hunger, please contact our Head of Campaigns and Communications, **Emma Fabian** at [emma.fabian@uamh.org](mailto:emma.fabian@uamh.org)

 **uamh.uk**



**United Against  
Malnutrition & Hunger**

 **@UnitedAMH**  
 **@UnitedAMH**  
 **@UnitedAMH**