



Year in Review



Photo: Robin Niedojadlo

Our photographic exhibition, *Why Nutrition is Foundational to UK Development*, was held in the heart of Parliament and co-hosted with sector partners

What's inside?

Message from our CEO

I am delighted to introduce our Year in Review, reflecting on the last 12 months of activity from United Against Malnutrition & Hunger.

2025 has been a critical year in the global fight against malnutrition and hunger. An unprecedented series of humanitarian crises continues to push millions into food insecurity and undernutrition. From the DRC and Sudan to Myanmar, Palestine, Somalia, and Yemen, these emergencies are contributing to catastrophic levels of malnutrition. Tragically, malnutrition remains one of the world's most urgent challenges, contributing to nearly half of all child deaths and undermining health, education, and development worldwide.

Against an increasingly constrained funding landscape, our work has focused on reinforcing the foundational role of nutrition in



The APPG on Nutrition for Development Delegation to Tanzania

Seeing the impact of malnutrition and solutions to it first-hand



Spotlight on Nutrition for Growth (N4G)

N4G was a key focus for both the APPG on Nutrition for Development and UAMH



Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop

Our agenda-setting report reveals how to transform debt into a driver of growth

What has been happening at UAMH

development. Through a photographic exhibition, we explored the links between hunger and major development priorities, including climate change, conflict, women and girls, and global health. Our research highlighted the troubling “doom loop” between rising debt and worsening malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries, and the devastating impact this has on investment in essential services such as health and education. At Party Conferences, we emphasised how food insecurity affects global stability, early childhood development, and long-term health outcomes.

We also worked to ensure strong Parliamentary engagement with the Nutrition for Growth Summit, a pivotal event held in Paris in March. The Summit brought together donor and high-burden countries to mobilise commitments and accelerate action. We hope that the UK government will now match its strong rhetoric with action, including renewed commitments to the Child Nutrition Fund.

Throughout the year, we championed the role of science, innovation, and research across nutrition, health, and agriculture. Visits to leading UK research institutions and a cross-party delegation to Tanzania showcased the power of equitable research partnerships in practice. This will be a central theme of our work in the year ahead.

A huge thank you to our speakers, partners, community advocates, and staff for their invaluable contributions. Our Alliance continues to grow, with new staff members, Yasmin Mahboubi and Roh Yakobi, and Board members, Mykay Kamara and Ruwan Kodikara, joining us. We are also delighted to welcome a new Parliamentary champion, Oliver Ryan MP, who is taking on the role of Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Nutrition for Development. Looking ahead, we remain committed to broadening our Alliance and amplifying the voices of those with lived experience in high-burden countries.



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

Parliamentary delegations to high burden countries are vital, enabling Parliamentarians to understand more about the global state of nutrition, see the impact of malnutrition, and learn about local solutions to address food insecurity.



Centre from left to right: Kate Osamor (in red), Rt. Hon. Deacon Chike John Okafor, David Mundell, Dr Beccy Cooper and Jonny Oates

Chairs from aligned APPGs visit Nigeria

March Our CEO, Jonny Oates, travelled to Nigeria with a group of cross-party Parliamentarians including David Mundell MP, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Nutrition for Development, Dr Beccy Cooper MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health and Security, and Kate Osamor MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Nigeria, as part of a delegation organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

As part of the visit, the delegation met with Rt. Hon. Deacon Chike John Okafor, Chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Nutrition and Food Security, and colleagues from the Nigerian National Assembly, to discuss nutrition, food security, and wider global health issues, as well as opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

Marmalade mix

April Marmalade festival, on the fringe of the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, is where doers and donors mixed to discuss how to make the world better and different. Our CEO Jonny Oates was there to speak at the *Future is Nourished: Bold Actions to End Child Malnutrition*.

The panel discussion was moderated by Anna Hakobyan, Chief Impact Officer of CIFF (Children's Investment Fund Foundation). Other speakers were



Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera from Action Against Hunger, Anne Walsh and Marie McGrath from the Emergency Nutrition Network, Alok Ranjan from Power of Nutrition, and Jonathan Jackson from Dimagi.

Convened to underline that malnutrition is a fundamental development challenge with long-term gains, the event focused on understanding malnutrition from different stakeholder perspectives (technology, political mobilisation, and innovative financing) and how they integrate with gender, WASH (water sanitation and hygiene), health, and so on.

With everyone reeling from the sweeping cuts to ODA, no one was misty-eyed about the challenge ahead. Jonny emphasised the importance of both forging partnerships with governments affected by malnutrition and creating momentum domestically. That will pool resources and political resolve to bring a nourished future closer, he said.

Nutrition Business Breakfast at the Chelsea Flower Show

May At the invitation of UAMH and the Gates Foundation, nutrition champions congregated at the Chelsea Flower Show in early morning sunshine to admire the beauty and brilliance of the Gold Medal winning Garden of the Future. Designed by Butler & Parker, the garden was supported by The Gates Foundation.

Monica Harding MP, the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on International Development, Wendy Morton MP, the Conservative spokesperson on



International Development, and Steve Race MP were welcomed by Ana Maria Loboguerrero, the Gates Foundation Director of Adaptive and Equitable Food Systems. All enjoyed a tour of the garden by its designer Matthew Butler.

Joining them were Professor Suneetha Kadiyala, Professor of Global Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Professor Giacoma Zanello, Professor in Food Economics and Health and Head of the Agri-Food Economics and Marketing Department at the University of Reading. The UK is home to world-leading science and research institutions working to address global malnutrition.

The biodiverse Garden of the Future was set in the UK, where the climate continues to change. It featured climate-resilient nutritious crops including millet, chickpea, pigeon pea, broad bean, sweet potato, cowpea, and common bean. We were delighted to welcome Rebecca Smith MP to the garden the following day.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Nutrition for Development delegation to Tanzania

June The APPG's Co-Chairs, David Mundell MP and Steve Race MP, and Vice-Chair, Monica Harding MP, and our CEO Jonny Oates, visited Tanzania to see UK overseas development in treating and preventing malnutrition.

It coincided with the 10th annual Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy Week Conference in Dar es Salaam co-hosted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Sokoine University of Agriculture, with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The ANH Academy Week brings together a community of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers working at the intersection of agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and health to share knowledge.

The delegation joined the opening and closing plenaries, which were led by the Deputy Prime Minister



of Tanzania, Hon. Dr Doto Mashaka Biteko. They also met with Neema Lugangira, a Tanzanian Member of Parliament and champion on global nutrition.

The Parliamentarians saw projects and organisations working specifically on addressing malnutrition and food insecurity in Tanzania, including the World Food Programme (WFP)'s clean cooking transition in schools project, a UNICEF-supported 'Village Health and Nutrition Day' in Zanzibar, Sanku's Nutrient Premix Blending Factory and Flour Bag Factory, and Action Against Hunger's Tanzania Mission.

The delegation was honoured to meet many inspiring people during the visit.

Read the full story [here](#).

Our photographic exhibition in Parliament

July Nutrition is Foundational to UK Development, and the title of UAMH's photographic exhibition staged in the Upper Committee Corridor in Parliament.

Delivered in partnership with Action Against Hunger, One Acre Fund, Concern Worldwide, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) UK, the exhibits displayed UK efforts to combat global malnutrition.

Conflict, climate resilience, gender equality, and global health are some of the UK Government's key international development priorities. The vivid images portrayed how investment in nutrition is critical to save and improve lives in each context.

Opening the exhibition, the International Development Minister, Baroness Chapman, urged Parliamentarians



Baroness Chapman opened the exhibition with Steve Race

to tell constituents about the importance of nutrition and how the UK Government is working alongside governments and communities to fight malnutrition.

Steve Race, MP for Exeter and Co-Chair of the APPG on Nutrition for Development, remarked that conflict is the leading driver of hunger, affecting 140 million people, exacerbating violence, and propelling migration. Accelerating climate change is threatening global food security, and more than one billion adolescent girls and women suffer from malnutrition, a condition that increases vulnerability to infectious diseases tenfold.

"So, it is important that organisations have come together to tell the visual story of the foundational nature of good nutrition and how it connects to all areas of development," he said.

Next, Monica Harding, MP for Esher and Vice Chair of the APPG, observed how the imagery brought home the difference the UK can make. "These photographs tell the story in a way words alone cannot," she said.

Picking out images, she spoke of the joyful picture of a family in Malawi, able to sleep because of One Acre Fund's vouchers supplied to pregnant women and new mothers to plant seeds. Of Hawa in Chad with her full catch of fish, caught with a new fishing net provided by Concern Worldwide. Of baby Sohaib suffering from malnutrition and chickenpox, receiving care from MSF, and the arresting images of pregnant Nyibol and her daughter fleeing war-ravaged Sudan and being treated at an Action Against Hunger clinic in South Sudan.

A reception in the Attlee and Reed room in the House of Lords followed the opening ceremony, where UAMH's Board Co-Chair, Baroness Brown, made a heartfelt speech. The images taken by Arlette Bashizi, a photojournalist from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), had struck a chord, recalling the Baroness's visit to the country as an election monitor in 2008. "For girls, the consequences (of malnutrition and hunger) can be forced marriage," she said.

Nutrition is foundational to development. We hope the exhibition enhanced the Minister's understanding that prioritising investment in nutrition is essential to achieving the UK's International Development aims and its broader purpose.

Read the full story [here](#).

Fund nutrition for a healthier, safer world, we urged audiences at the Party Conferences

September As global conflicts and insecurity proliferate, widening the chasm of inequality, it is ever-more crucial to press for political action against malnutrition. A root cause of poverty and block on physical, mental, and global development,

malnutrition shockingly remains the biggest killer of children under five.

Committed to ensuring the UK plays its full role in ending this tragedy, UAMH hit the party conferences with a clear message. Preventing and treating malnutrition will deliver a healthier, safer world. So, as ODA diminishes, while instability and chronic humanitarian needs soar, funding for nutrition must be prioritised.

First, off to Bournemouth to the Liberal Democrat Party Conference and *The Geopolitical Implications of Hunger*, the panel event we co-hosted with the Liberal Democrats in International Development and the World Food Programme.

As Chair Edward Morello, MP for West Dorset, told the packed audience, “Solving global hunger is imperative to global stability.”

He was joined by UAMH CEO, Jonny Oates, Director of the Global London Office of the World Food Programme, Geraldine O’Callaghan, and UAMH Special Adviser, Roh Yakobi. They explored how deep cuts to ODA are fuelling hunger with consequences for European security.

According to The World Food Programme, every 1% rise in food insecurity causes a 2% rise in migration.

Liverpool, and the Labour Party Conference was the next stop on our pursuit of a world in which no child dies of malnutrition. We are not there yet, a heartbreak Roh Yakobi understands too well. As a boy in Afghanistan, he experienced the brutal Taliban blockade in which thousands of people starved to death, his baby brother included.

Roh spoke on *From Grassroots to Global: Advancing Health Equity Together*, the event hosted by Action for Global Health. Fellow panellists were Paul Marsden from the World Health Organisation, Jacqueline Bamfo, a maternal health expert from the Ghanaian Doctors and Dentists Association, Winifred Maduko, a youth activist and One Ambassador, and Adrian Lovett, One’s Executive Director.



Discussing the link between malnutrition and infectious disease at the Labour Party Conference. From left, Roh Yakobi, Winifred Maduko, Adrian Lovett, Paul Marsden

Malnutrition profoundly affects health, reducing vaccine effectiveness, increasing the risk of infections, and weakening immune systems. A malnourished child is 11 times more likely to die of an infectious disease such as pneumonia, and panellists warned that lack of funding for health systems and workers was hurting women and children most.

Finally, UAMH arrived in Manchester for *From Hunger to Hypertension: Why Tackling Malnutrition is Key to Preventing Non-Communicable Diseases*, the Conservative Party Conference event we co-hosted with Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET).

Chaired by Sir Andrew Mitchell MP, Former Deputy Foreign Secretary and Minister for International Development, the line-up comprised UAMH’s Roh Yakobi, Margaret Caffrey, Technical Director Health Systems Strengthening at Global Health Partnerships, Dr Sorrell Burden from the University of Manchester, and Dr Lawrence Nnyanzi, Senior Lecturer in Research Methods at Teesside University.

Malnutrition and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are increasingly recognised as linked. Undernutrition in childhood contributes to poor metabolic health later in life.

Despite the challenging development environment, we were encouraged by positive conversations with Parliamentarians across the political divide.

Read the full story [here](#).



Our panel at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference agreed that solving global hunger is imperative to global stability. From left, Roh Yakobi, Edward Morello, Geraldine O’Callaghan, Jonny Oates



Links between malnutrition and non-communicable diseases are increasingly recognised. The Conservative Party Conference panel, from left Margaret Caffrey, Dr Lawrence Nnyanzi, Sir Andrew Mitchell, Dr Sorrell Burden, Roh Yakobi



Baroness Liz Sugg, Monica Harding, His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, Arunma Oteh, Her Excellency Macenje "Che Che" Mazoka, Brian Mathew, Jonny Oates

The launch of *Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop*

November It is an irrefutable truth. To survive and thrive, humans need access to good nutrition.

Malnutrition, the biggest killer of children under five, is a disruptor that unleashes a domino effect of disaster, damaging the brains, bodies, and health of survivors, weakening economies, perpetuating poverty, fuelling community misery and global unrest.

Alarmingly, our report [*Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop*](#), revealed that debt makes malnutrition worse.

Parliamentarians, High Commissioners, and NGOs congregated for the report's launch in the Central Hall Westminster.

The erudite panel event was chaired by Arunma Oteh, former Treasurer and Vice-President of the World Bank and current Chair of the Royal African Society. Also speaking were Liam Byrne MP, Chair of the Business and Trade Committee, Her Excellency Macenje "Che Che" Mazoka, The High Commissioner of Zambia to the UK, and our CEO Jonny Oates.

Commissioned by UAMH from Informed International, *Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop* analysed data from nine low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), Bangladesh, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone, designated Flagship countries by FCDO. Between 2010 and 2023, their average debt burden surged by almost 250% far outpacing economic growth and dwarfing payments made in ODA.

Introducing the report, Jonny Oates warned that nutrition programmes are often the first casualties of austerity.

Health workers are let go, school feeding programmes stop, nutrition supplies run out, while inflation makes a healthy diet unaffordable. The consequences are profound. Malnourished populations become more susceptible to disease and educational outcomes deteriorate. Inequality widens, trapping people and countries in poverty, creating a doom loop.

Indeed, the research revealed that by 2023, one in five people were malnourished, two in five women of reproductive age were anaemic, and one in three children under five were stunted.

Part of the problem is the increase in the proportion of debt owed to private creditors. These loans often have higher interest rates and shorter maturities. Liam Byrne MP spoke to this. Endorsing UAMH's report as an "agenda-setter," he said that debt is one of the big blockers to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and called for greater transparency and scrutiny.

The High Commissioner of Zambia to the UK emphasised the importance of increased debt transparency, which is one of the report's recommendations.

Interventions were made by His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, South Africa's High Commissioner to the UK, Monica Harding MP, Brian Mathew MP, Dr Beccy Cooper MP, and Baroness Sugg.

Sector partners, including Results UK, Debt Justice, and Christian Aid contributed knowledgeable and thoughtful comments to the discussion.

Read the full story [here](#).

Polling UK public opinion

Nearly 70% of the British public want the UK Government to collaborate with international organisations like the World Bank to reduce debt repayments for low-income countries—if it enables greater investment in children's nutrition, education, and healthcare.

Polling of 2,122 UK adults by Focaldata, commissioned by UAMH, showed strong cross-party backing: 83% of Labour, 69% of Liberal Democrat, 64% of Conservative, and 59% of Reform UK supporters agreed this is the right course of action. Support was highest among younger voters, with 78% of 25–34-year-olds and 76% of 18–24-year-olds backing UK leadership on the issue.

UAMH CEO Jonny Oates said: “As political parties compete for the attention of younger voters, debt is clearly an issue they care about and want to see action on. Leaders should take note.”

Read the full story [here](#).

Highlighting maternal and child malnutrition drop-in event in Parliament

December Conflict and hunger are locked in a deadly cycle, with women and children suffering most severely. Thankfully, our partners in the sector are steadfastly battling to tackle malnutrition in some of the world's most hostile areas such as Sudan, Gaza, Nigeria, and Somalia.

Collaborating with the Eleanor Crook Foundation, Médecins Sans Frontières, and Save the Children we

co-hosted a drop-in event in Parliament to make the case for this important work. At interactive stations, MPs and Peers discovered more about malnutrition's impact on individuals and communities, and solutions.

The maps, films, photographs, and packets of life-saving ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) on display were talking points with the Parliamentarians, who compared the weights of bags of rice equivalent to nourished and malnourished two-year-olds, and experienced a nutrition clinic via a virtual reality headset.

Partners urged that nutrition-specific interventions must be protected, funding mechanisms such as the Child Nutrition Fund supported, malnutrition treatments unimpeded, and nutrition embedded as a priority across health, climate, and humanitarian spending.

Animated conversations were had with the cross-party Parliamentarians who attended, among them Andrew Bowie MP and Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, Bambos Charalambous MP, Co-Chairs of the APPG on Nutrition for Development, Steve Rake MP and David Mundell MP, who is also an International Development Committee member, Rebecca Smith MP, Baroness Suttie, Lord Purvis, Lord Browne of Ladyton, and our CEO Lord Jonny Oates.

Representatives from the FCDO, Sun Civil Society, Emergency Nutrition Network, Action Against Hunger, International Rescue Committee, Mary Dinah Foundation, Concern Worldwide, Results UK, and UNICEF were also in the room.



Parliamentarians discovered more about how to treat and prevent malnutrition at the interactive event

Spotlight on Nutrition for Growth (N4G)

The Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit was held in Paris March 27-28, 2025. It is a global pledging moment to drive greater action towards ending malnutrition. The UK pioneered N4G, hosting a Hunger Summit under the spotlight of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the first N4G in London in 2013.

Now, Nutrition for Growth Summits are broadly organised every four years, usually by the host country of the Olympic and Paralympic games. Tokyo hosted the last N4G in 2021. The USA stages the Games in 2028.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Nutrition for Development works to support and challenge the UK Government to maintain their leadership on global nutrition. UAMH acts as its Secretariat. N4G has been a key focus for both the APPG and UAMH.

Ahead of N4G, The APPG set out its policy priorities, released a [call to action](#), wrote to the Prime Minister, and to the Minister for Development at the FCDO to outline their asks for the Summit. It also held a series of events and meetings, supported by UAMH.

December 2024 The APPG on Nutrition for Development, together with the APPG on the UN Global Goals, met with France's Special Envoy on Nutrition and Secretary General of the Nutrition for Growth Summit, Brieuc Pont. It was an opportunity for UK Parliamentarians to be briefed by the Special Envoy on the objectives of the Summit and discuss how they could contribute to its success.



Meeting France's Special Envoy on Nutrition and Secretary General of the Nutrition for Growth Summit for N4G. From left Steve Race, David Mundell, Monica Harding, Brieuc Pont, Jonny Oates

The APPG on Nutrition for Development and ICAN UK reception in Parliament

February Looking Ahead to Nutrition for Growth 2025, co-hosted by the APPG on Nutrition for Development, and the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN) UK was held at Westminster's Thames Pavilion.

The APPG's Co-Chair, David Mundell MP, opened the event and welcomed guests.

He was followed by speakers Sayyeda Salam, Executive Director of Concern Worldwide UK, Fatima Askira, Founder of BOWDI (Borno Women Development Initiative), and Misan Harriman, activist, photographer,



Building momentum towards N4G, the APPG and ICAN UK reception. From left Lord Collins, Steve Race, Sayyeda Salam, Fatima Askira, David Mundell, Misan Harriman

filmmaker and Save the Children Ambassador. The Minister for Africa, Lord Ray Collins of Highbury, also spoke.

Good nutrition is foundational to individual and global development. Speakers and guests emphasised that the UK Government and its partners' commitments at N4G could improve the health, development, and earning capability of millions worldwide, especially women and children.

David Mundell MP talked about how good nutrition in pregnancy reduces stillbirth and stunting in children.

ICAN UK is a network of more than 30 organisations that collaborate to save and improve lives through better nutrition. Sayyeda Salam spoke about the policy and financial recommendations it made to the Government for N4G. These included investing £500 million in nutrition-specific programmes, ensuring £2.5 billion of ODA is nutrition-sensitive from 2025-2030, and integrating nutrition across key sectors, including climate, health, and agriculture.

Every \$1 invested in addressing malnutrition, yields \$23 in returns, she said.

Fatima Askira spoke about the anguish of parents of malnourished children in Nigeria. The deeply distressing inequality of malnutrition was echoed by Misan Harriman. Like all the speakers and attendees, he was invited to answer the question 'I care about global hunger and malnutrition because...' His answer, written on a board, was simply: "I am human."

Lord Collins confirmed the Government would not make a financial pledge at N4G, but hoped to announce targets for integrating nutrition across the FCDO portfolio.

The cross-party Parliamentarians gathered included Bobby Dean MP, Lord Cameron of Dillington, Baroness Featherstone, Josh Fenton-Glynn MP, Monica Harding MP, Alice MacDonald MP, Wendy Morton MP, and Lord Purvis of Tweed.

Representatives of ICAN UK at the reception included Action Against Hunger UK, Concern Worldwide UK, Results UK, Save the Children UK, The Power of Nutrition, UNICEF UK, and World Vision UK.

They were joined by the Eleanor Crook Foundation, GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition), ONE, The End Fund, World Food Programme, International Committee of the Red Cross, and delegates from the FCDO, the French Government, and University College London. The APPG's Co-Chair, Steve Race MP, thanked everyone for coming.

Articulating why he cared about global malnutrition and hunger APPG Co-Chair Steve Race MP wrote: "Good nutrition is foundational to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals."

Read the full story [here](#).

Meeting French MPs & officials ahead of the Summit

February Impassioned speakers addressed the audience of ambassadors, Parliamentarians, Olympic and Paralympic medallists, and leaders from business, philanthropy, and civil society. All gathered at *Malnutrition: A Global Issue, a Collective Response* at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris, a reception one month before N4G.

Among the guests were the APPG's Co-Chairs, David Mundell MP and Steve Race MP, and Jonny Oates, CEO of United Against Malnutrition & Hunger. They had come to Paris for a whistle-stop schedule of meetings with French MPs and officials to discuss the escalating global malnutrition crisis.

A crisis, the Minister Delegate for Francophonie and International Partnerships, Thani Mohamed-Soilihi, described as a "plague from which 140 million children are suffering." Good nutrition is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, the Minister said.

The call for urgent, overdue action was echoed throughout the reception, hosted by Global Health Advocates, UNICEF France, and Éléonore Caroit MP from the governing Renaissance Party, who said, "The issue should be important for every politician," and thanked the British delegation for coming.

Vaccines are less effective in malnourished children, a point made by Dr Sania Nishtar, Executive Director of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.



Meeting in the French Parliament ahead of N4G. From left Jonny Oates, Steve Race, Éléonore Caroit, David Mundell

"An integrated approach is vital when addressing malnutrition," she said, pledging to leverage opportunities to integrate nutrition into vaccination programmes.

Adeline Hazan, the President of UNICEF France, spoke of her alarm about the drop in France's international development budget. "Without food, there is no health and no education," she stressed.

Concern was shared by Global Health Advocates' Executive Director, Patrick Bertand. "Countries are moving back from funding at precisely the time they need to scale up," he said.

Brieuc Pont, France's Special Envoy on Nutrition and Secretary General of the N4G Summit, added an upbeat tone and emphasised how development starts with nutrition and is essential to peace.

In France public pressure to tackle global hunger has fallen due to the cost-of-living crisis and stretched government budgets, as the delegation heard in meetings. Éléonore Caroit explained that switching the narrative to focus on childhood nutrition, malnutrition in the elderly, and obese adolescents was helping to drive the message home.

The delegation met with Laura McCambridge, Minister Counsellor for Economic, Political and Social Affairs at the British Embassy in Paris, before a final meeting with Brieuc Pont who was headed for Cape Town to address bankers. "There is nothing more powerful than financial and political diplomacy working together," he said.

Read the full story [here](#).

N4G Debate in House of Commons

March Just before N4G, nine MPs spoke at a debate, held in Parliament's Westminster Hall, hosted by the APPG's Co-Chair, David Mundell MP. He stressed the importance of access to good nutrition for health, education, gender equality, and economic advancement and made the case for a strong, ambitious, well-targeted UK commitment at N4G.

The APPG's Co-Chair, Steve Race MP, recounted his visit, hosted by UAMH, to mobile outreach centres in Kenya where he saw the positive impact of nutrition-specific interventions, including antenatal multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) and RUTF.

Jim Shannon MP spoke about the role of churches in combatting malnutrition and strengthening global partnerships to move towards zero hunger.

Dr Beccy Cooper MP said nutrition is a global growth issue and prioritising nutrition interventions make a difference to people's wellbeing, safety, and security.

Edward Morello MP outlined the strategic risk of stepping back from development spending. Abtisam Mohamed MP outlined how hunger and conflict coexist in a deadly cycle

and asked the Minister to commit to protecting nutrition spending in conflict-affected areas such as Sudan.

Monica Harding MP pointed out that investments in nutrition are low cost and high impact. She urged the Government to renew its nutrition-specific funding commitments and protect the UK's health and nutrition expertise.

Wendy Morton MP noted the UK's previous leadership on global action for nutrition.

Responding to the debate, Minister Stephen Doughty MP outlined FCDO's commitment to N4G including with the Global Compact on Nutrition Integration (see below) and work to scale up treatment through the Child Nutrition Fund.

Attending the Summit

March The APPG Co-Chairs attended the N4G Summit accompanied by Dr Beccy Cooper MP, Chair of the APPG on Global Health and Security, and Jonny Oates, our CEO.

They joined the Official Opening of N4G by the Prime Minister of France, François Bayrou, with H.M. Letsie III, King of Lesotho, Tiémoko Meyliet Koné, Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and Rosângela 'Janja' Lula da Silva, the First Lady of Brazil.

They went to the FCDO's launch of the [Global Compact on Nutrition Integration](#), delivered by the Minister for International Development, Baroness Chapman.

In the margins of the Summit, the delegation met with nutrition experts to hear about their work in communities, including UAMH Expert Adviser Dr Mairo Mandara, a Nigerian obstetrician, gynaecologist, and public health physician. They had discussions with Dr Sufia Askari, Managing Director of Sight and Life, a global organisation dedicated to tackling malnutrition, and Dr Sherin Varkey, World Bank Programme Leader



The APPG's Co-Chairs meet World Vision International youth leaders, Sunischita from Nepal, Williams from Sierra Leone, and Salome from Colombia, at the Summit. Left David Mundell, and Steve Race on the right

for Human Development for Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Eritrea.

The delegation also met with groups of inspiring SUN Civil Society Network youth advocates, and World Vision International youth leaders.

Read the story [here](#).



The FCDO launched its Global Compact for Nutrition Integration at N4G. From left David Mundell, Baroness Chapman, Steve Race, Jonny Oates

Media

The day before the Summit, *The Guardian* published a Letter to the Editor, signed by the APPG Co-Chairs, Steve Race MP and David Mundell MP, and French MP, Éléonore Caroit. They urged the UK and France to make strong pledges at N4G.

During the Summit, Jonny Oates and Steve Race MP did several radio interviews including on LBC News and BBC Devon. David Mundell MP, reflected on the Summit in [Parliament News](#).

The Guardian
Letters
A chance for world leaders to end malnutrition and save lives
Parliamentarians from the UK and France urge governments to make strong pledges at the nutrition summit in Paris this week

Steve Race, David Mundell, and Éléonore Caroit co-wrote this Letter to the Editor

Tue 25 Mar 2025 17.47 GMT

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Malnutrition

'Malnutrition in childhood has devastating and generational impacts.' Photograph: David Sillitoe/The Guardian

This week, world leaders meet in Paris for **Nutrition for Growth**, the critical four-yearly summit that aims to tackle the scourge of soaring global malnutrition and hunger. As a group of cross-party politicians from the UK - the birthplace of Nutrition for Growth in 2013 - and the summit's current host, France, we believe that the fight against malnutrition is an issue on which every policymaker should unite.

Extracts from the APPG's statement in response to N4G

“Since 2013, when it was launched by the UK Government, Nutrition for Growth has been a key moment for delivering greater action towards ending malnutrition, mobilising the international community, and placing nutrition higher up the development agenda.

We were encouraged that the UK played a leading role in launching the Global Compact on Nutrition Integration, bringing together partner governments, NGOs, philanthropies, and multilateral institutions to commit to integrating nutrition across all their work.

Nevertheless, it is disappointing that the UK Government chose not to make a financial commitment ... despite its stated support for nutrition. This disappointment is compounded by the concern that the reduction of ODA from 0.5% to 0.3% of GNI by 2027 could make the current global malnutrition crisis even worse.”

...“At a time of fiscal constraint, it would be most effective for the UK Government to invest £50 million into the Child Nutrition Fund, an innovative financing mechanism with the ability to transform the UK’s pledge into £500 million of impact through match-funding from global philanthropy and country governments.

With the limited resources now available for ODA, the UK Government should prioritise and protect its nutrition spending and invest it in a way that maximises the impact.”

Read the full response [here](#).

Extracts from UAMH CEO Jonny Oates's response

“The Nutrition for Growth summit in Paris highlighted the fundamental importance of nutrition in global development.”

...“We call specifically for a £50 million commitment to the Child Nutrition Fund.”

...“Nutrition is key to the development of individuals, countries, and geopolitical security. Without it, prosperity, equality, climate resilience, and peace remain beyond reach.”

“The UK’s proud legacy of leadership against malnutrition should be maintained because it is both moral and in the UK’s self-interest.”

Read the full response [here](#).

Spotlight on science

British science is pioneering efforts to reduce global malnutrition and hunger. UAMH works to champion this innovation and is Secretariat to the APPG on Nutrition for Development. In 2025, the APPG visited three institutions to learn more about their work.

John Innes Centre



David Mundell, Professor Diane Saunders, and Baroness Hayman

February The John Innes Centre is an independent, international centre of excellence in plant science, genetics, and microbiology. The APPG's Co-Chair, David Mundell MP, and Member, Baroness Hayman, visited its headquarters in Norwich to hear about groundbreaking work on fortified and drought resistant crops and other advances to tackle global malnutrition. They met with the Centre's inspiring academics, led by its Director, Professor Graham Moore.

Touring the laboratories the delegation saw examples of technologies such as MARPLE diagnostics, DNA sequencing that identifies pathogens and tracks their dispersal to reduce crop losses. Professor Diane Saunders explained it tracked wheat rust, a fungus that has wiped out crops for millennia.

Each year, up to 30% of global crop yields are lost to pests and disease. Prevention could save US\$540 billion a year.

Read the full story [here](#).

Rothamsted Research

June Rothamsted Research is one of the world's oldest agricultural research institutions that conducts long term experiments in agriculture, crops, soil, and



Foreground, clockwise, Jonny Oates, David Mundell, Steve Race, Dr Mark Wilkinson, Lord Cameron of Dillington

environments to the benefit of farmers and society worldwide. The APPG's delegation, including Co-Chairs Steve Race MP and David Mundell MP, and members Lord Cameron of Dillington, Baroness Hodgson, and our CEO Jonny Oates, toured its laboratories and archive holding soil samples spanning 175 years, learning about Rothamsted's work to improve crop nutrition for humans and livestock.

Presentations given by scientists covered the genetic analysis of seven hundred rice varieties for their sensitivity to temperature and light, game-changing social science insights into the household adoption of nutritious grains, and how the fortification of white bread can make it more nutritious than brown. They also enjoyed a live demonstration of gene transfer techniques.

Researchers emphasised that sustained, long-term funding is essential to deliver meaningful change.

Read the full story [here](#).

The University of Exeter

October Ahead of COP30 in Brazil, the APPG's Co-Chair, Steve Race MP, and our CEO Jonny Oates visited the University of Exeter. They were there to hear more about the university's work on global malnutrition and food insecurity, particularly the impact of climate change on food and farmers, and the need to build resilience into the food system.

Extreme weather events—such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves—are disrupting food systems, reducing the availability and affordability of nutritious food. These shocks lead to crop failures, loss of livelihoods, forced displacement, and food price spikes. Climate change can also damage the nutritional quality of staple crops. Weather disasters frequently damage health infrastructure interrupting essential nutrition services.

During the visit, the delegation met academics, led by Stuart Brocklehurst, studying malnutrition from health and weather systems perspectives and visited the Global Meteorological Simulator (GMS), led by Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Richard Lindsay. A cutting-edge plant growth chamber facility, the GMS allows scientists to study plant health and disease under realistic climate conditions. They discover how plants and interacting organisms respond, gleaning knowledge to improve food security.

Read the full story [here](#).



Jonny Oates (foreground) and Steve Race experience the Global Meteorological Simulator at Exeter, led by Dr Richard Lindsay

UAMH Alliance news

Our Board and Executive Team work to raise the prominence of malnutrition and hunger with UK policy-makers and the public. We want to see the UK at the heart of a sustainable global response to the rise of malnutrition and hunger around the world.

We have been delighted to welcome new members to our Board and Executive Team.

Our Board

Ruwan Kodikara is a strategic communications professional with over 20 years' experience.



As Senior Vice President for communications at Sony Music Entertainment, he oversees corporate and political communications across all international markets outside the US.

Prior to Sony, Ruwan oversaw communications campaigns for Amazon in the UK, managing executive comms, employer branding, policy comms, social responsibility, and polling insights.

His career includes a tenure as Special Adviser in No. 10 Downing Street, managing cross-government campaigns on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister during the Coalition Government, and prior to this, providing consultancy services for organisations both in the private and charity sectors.

In his spare time, Ruwan also serves as Member of the Audit & Risk Committee for the University of Nottingham and as an ambassador for the Creative Mentor Network.



Mykay Kamara is a strategically minded business executive and entrepreneur with deep commercial experience from working in start-ups, SMEs, global businesses, banking and private equity.

He is a seasoned Board Director and business executive with expertise across multiple sectors, including technology, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), creative and financial services. He has served in various capacities, encompassing non-executive board roles, executive positions in enterprises, and general management roles in SMEs and start-ups.

He is distinguished by his strategic acumen, execution zeal, and dedication to ethical business practices. He thrives on international assignments,

having worked in over ten countries and achieved success in demanding and challenging environments.

Professionally, Mykay is a chartered accountant, trained with Coopers & Lybrand and then Price Waterhouse. His career includes management positions at Coca-Cola, Aviva, and Lloyds Banking Group. Additionally, he has played a pivotal role in the inception of new ventures such as Studio Something, Welbot, and Sentinel-Health.

Mykay balances his commercial endeavours with a strong social purpose, participating in development activities in Africa, including returning to Sierra Leone during the 2013-2016 Ebola pandemic to support international efforts to eradicate the disease.

We interview a member of our Alliance to find out more about their journey into activism against malnutrition.



Here Mykay Kamara tells us why a school friend drove his decision to join our Board.

Mykay still thinks about his friend Emmanuel, who was "a genius in a different league" and influenced his decision to join UAMH's Board.

Growing up in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, Mykay came from a relatively well-off family but attended a school with children from all backgrounds, including some who were "hugely hungry" like Emmanuel.

One memory stands out: visiting his classmate's house and the shock he felt to his "bones at the wretched poverty" he saw there.

"I thought, this is awful. Emmanuel could have done anything, but hunger and circumstances would inevitably hold him back. Joining UAMH is personal to me," Mykay explains.

Now an entrepreneur, Mykay attributes his comparative success to those early advantages. His start-up develops AI technologies to support emergency service workers in managing psychological trauma.

"The idea is to help protect the protectors," he says.

Blending business with a social cause is a shift from his previously purely commercial background working for companies including Price Waterhouse Coopers and Lloyds Banking Group. A journey that began with arriving in the UK as a student. The outbreak of brutal civil war in Sierra Leone in 1991, which lasted 11 years, prevented him from going back as planned.

Eventually, the pull of Africa was too great, and he returned there to launch an electricity generation

supply business, underscoring that infrastructure fuels progress just as nutrition powers human development.

These days, the closest he gets to experiencing hunger is fasting during Ramadan: “It is not comparable to acute hunger but gives you an idea of its impact. It tires and shocks depletes you physically and mentally, even whilst being spiritually uplifting,” he says.

The shock of poverty and hunger is a recurrent theme throughout our conversation, and Mykay believes the emotion sums up the public response to Michael Buerk’s 1986 broadcast on the famine in Ethiopia. “People have become far more compartmentalised. There is less empathy now,” he says.

Determination to counter that apathy propelled him to join the UAMH Alliance, declaring, “We must not give up!” He believes that appealing to people’s heads, as well as their hearts, is the pragmatic approach.

The way he sees it, “People do not leave their homes in half-decent countries to emigrate abroad on a whim. Poverty forces them to move and makes migration inevitable. So, the financial cost of poverty is higher than helping to resolve it.”

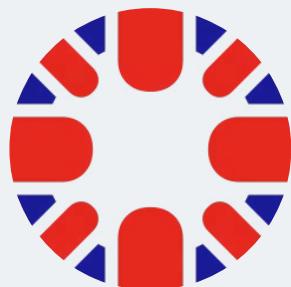
Mykay ends by recalling Emmanuel again. “His mind was incredible. But it was inevitable that hunger and poverty would stifle his immense potential.”

The tragedy is that malnutrition remains the biggest killer of children under five, survivors are permanently physically and cognitively damaged, so there are hundreds of millions of children like Emmanuel today.

That is why investment in nutrition is an investment in human capital and a solution to a more stable and secure world.

The Alliance

United Against Malnutrition & Hunger is an Alliance for global action on malnutrition and hunger.



We bring people together from scientific, business, finance, military, diplomatic, faith, philanthropic and civil society 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 Executive Team



Yasmin Mahboubi, Head of Advocacy and Policy (maternity cover)

Yasmin has several years of experience in advocacy and campaigning in international development and human rights. She was previously Oxfam GB’s Head of UK Government

Relations, leading the organisation’s UK political and advocacy strategies for several years. Before that, she worked at RESULTS UK, where she coordinated the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Vaccinations for All, as well as at Medical Aid for Palestinians and the New Arab. She holds an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from SOAS University.



Roh Yakobi, Special Adviser: Strategic Partnerships

Born in Afghanistan’s central highlands of Hazarajat, Roh Yakobi arrived in the UK in November 2004 as a refugee, with no English and no connections, after fleeing captivity and torture at the

hands of the Taliban as a 12-year-old child. Before leaving Afghanistan, he survived a Taliban imposed blockade during which he lost a baby brother to malnutrition. Prior to arriving in the UK, he lived as a refugee child labourer in Iran and Pakistan, working on construction sites, in sweatshops, and in factories.

After settling in the UK and learning English, mostly through conversing at his warehouse and factory jobs as well as listening to BBC radio, Roh studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the Open University, which led him to a career as a political and security analyst with a focus on international affairs, development, counter-extremism, and refugee rights. He has worked with and advised senior political leaders, NGOs, and think tanks, including government Ministers, MPs, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and the International Rescue Committee. He has written for and appeared on national and international media outlets.

A high-profile Labour Party parliamentary candidate in the 2024 General Election, Roh was named one of Labour’s “ten brightest” new candidates by New Statesman magazine. He was also profiled by The Times newspaper, Tortoise Media, The Mirror, and others.

Through his influential podcast, *Afghanistan with Roh Yakobi*, he has interviewed a wide range of senior figures, including former US National Security Adviser General H.R. McMaster – as well as other senior American figures, British government ministers, journalists, historians including Dame Mary Beard, and others.



Leading voice from the sector

Geraldine O'Callaghan, Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Global Office in London, tells us about her career journey, what inspired her, and why she advises Parliamentarians to front-load investment in nutrition.

It was the merger of DFID (Department for International Development) with the FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) in the summer of 2020 that made Geraldine O'Callaghan realise her true passion lay in international development.

She first joined DFID in 2000 from the NGO sector, when Clare Short was setting up the department's work on conflict and security. "I was one of the first advisers who came in and focused on security issues," Geraldine recalls.

It was the beginning of a journey that took her to Jamaica as Development Director, then to Uganda and on to South Sudan. She returned to London as the Deputy Director of Asia Pacific, working with countries transitioning from aid recipients to donors. Her next role was as Development Director and Deputy Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

But a preoccupation with conflict's derailing effect on development has been constant throughout her career, sparked by Band Aid as a teenager, which inspired her to volunteer as a teacher in Zimbabwe and campaign for Oxfam.

"It was the Rwandan genocide that first made me think deeply about what holds a country back and what propels it forward," she says.

Now Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) Global Office in London, Geraldine focuses on conflict and its destabilising effect even more.

It is no coincidence, she notes, that while more conflicts are raging than at any other time since the Second World War, global hunger has surged from 135 million severely hungry people in 2019 to around 318 million in 2025.

The combined pressures of conflict, natural disasters and debt are flatlining economies, creating chronic issues like malnutrition, she says. Millions more people do not know where their next meal is coming from, at a time when humanitarian agencies are grappling with an historic funding gap.

A gap, which, as we know, widened in 2025. Geraldine is proud to lead WFP in London, which she describes as a dynamic organisation focused on tangible results delivered by a network of "creative and brave people."

Innovation is undoubtedly required as the chasm between soaring need and waning funding increases exponentially. The consensus across the world to help the poorest communities is not holding, she says.

Prevention must be part of the answer. Without the huge funds required to respond to humanitarian crises, the answer is to prevent them from happening, she believes.

Her advice to Parliamentarians is to think much more about front-loading interventions, making savings and efficiencies by investing more at the start. In practice, this means acting early when it is possible to predict a natural disaster, supporting risk insurance, conflict prevention, and nutrition. "We know that investment in the nutrition of mothers and babies has huge economic benefits that last throughout their lives," she says.

That is why WFP is focused on working upstream with governments on school meal programmes, which are more than 90% domestically funded and therefore more sustainable over the medium term. Although not a panacea, school meals are a way of getting governments to think about nutrition sustainably. "They attract girls to enrol in school, and this helps with education and long-term economic development," she says.



Nevertheless, Geraldine understands that sometimes even the most creative solutions are not enough, a conclusion drawn after a visit to Afghanistan, where development funding was slashed when the Taliban came to power. WFP colleagues had creative ideas targeting people most in need, pre-positioning food before winter and adding supplements to bread and flour. Nevertheless, malnutrition increased by 20%.

The uncomfortable reality is that WFP, like others in the sector, must navigate a balance between keeping people nourished and keeping them alive.

It can be hard for her colleagues, some of whom are exposed to danger in conflict zones where food is weaponised. “In Sudan, both sides are frustrating access to food, so our teams are navigating that, while people are starving or being brought to the brink of starvation, which, especially for women and children, will impact the rest of their lives.”

The International Development Committee’s Inquiry into International Humanitarian Law (IHL) – to which UAMH submitted evidence – was welcome and timely, she says. But the Government should balance diplomatic efforts and robust compliance with IHL and greater accountability for those who violate it.

Geraldine finishes by recalling the words of William Cobbett (1763-1835), journalist and Parliamentarian, who said, “I defy you to agitate any fellow with a full stomach.”

The fundamental human needs remain the same, she says. Without food, water and shelter, people will stay put and die, or they will fight or move.

“Hunger has a massively destabilising effect. That is why we must do something about it.”



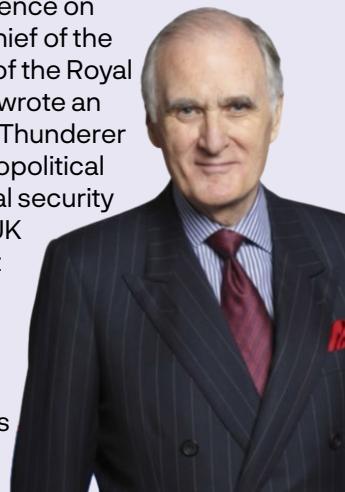
UAMH in the media

We secured editorial chimed with politically salient moments, raising public awareness of global hunger.

Two years on from the outbreak of conflict in famine-struck Sudan

15 April On the day Foreign Secretary David Lammy hosted a High-Level Conference on Sudan in London, Former Chief of the Defence Staff and Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Jock Stirrup wrote an Opinion Piece in *The Times* Thunderer column. He stressed the geopolitical significance and the national security reasons why people in the UK should be concerned about the hunger crisis in Sudan.

Lord Stirrup also gave interviews to Times Radio and Sky News. Jonny Oates did interviews with both LBC and LBC News.



For Britain, Sudan crisis is not just a humanitarian emergency

The UK, with the oldest Sudanese diaspora in Europe, is a natural destination for refugees

Jock Stirrup | Monday April 14 2025, 8.15pm, *The Times*

[Share](#)

Foreign ministers from 20 states congregate in London today for a conference hosted by our foreign secretary. Its focus will be the humanitarian crisis in war-ravaged Sudan. It is difficult to exaggerate the suffering caused by the vicious fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and their rivals, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The SAF has retaken Khartoum in recent weeks but fighting continues across the country. A parallel government has been set up in RSF-held areas, and a proliferation of militias, jihadists and other armed groups threatens the viability of the country.

Tens of thousands have died. Agriculture has been devastated. Food prices have soared. A staggering 25 million people, half the country's population, face acute food insecurity. Twenty-seven locations across Sudan are either in famine or at risk of famine. Simple human feeling ought to provide sufficient motivation to do all we can to address this crisis. But there are also hard-headed reasons of national self-interest why people in the UK should be concerned.

World Hunger Day

28 May *The Guardian* published a Letter to the Editor signed by three cross-party former International Development Ministers, Baroness Valerie Amos (Labour), Baroness Lynne Featherstone (Liberal Democrat), and Baroness Liz Sugg (Conservative).

If leaders are serious about setting a path to a stable world where people can survive and prosper where they live, improving maternal nutrition would be a good place to start, they said.

Jonny Oates did three radio interviews, with LBC, Times Radio Breakfast, and UCB (United Christian Broadcasters). Listeners heard that nutrition is essential to development and without it prosperity, equality, climate resilience, and peace remain beyond reach.



Our CEO Jonny Oates gave several radio interviews

Letters

On World Hunger Day, make maternal nutrition a government priority

Former development ministers **Valerie Amos, Lynne Featherstone** and **Liz Sugg** call on leaders to commit to ensuring that women and children have access to good nutrition



Letter to The Guardian Editor: Improve maternal nutrition to put us on the path to a more stable world

Our report on debt and malnutrition

November On its launch day, Jonny Oates gave an interview to LBC's Ian Payne, alerting listeners to UAMH's research *Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop*. He also talked about our polling commissioned from Focaldata. It revealed overwhelming cross-party public support for UK Government action to reduce debt repayments for low-income countries—if it enables investment in children's nutrition.



LBC presenter, Ian Payne

News and views from Parliament

Cut to Official Development Assistance (ODA)

On 25 February, the Prime Minister announced that the UK would raise its defence spending to 2.6% of GDP by 2027. He said the increase would be funded by a cut in UK ODA from 0.5% of gross national income (GNI) to 0.3% of GNI.

This reduction in spending could have devastating impacts on global hunger and malnutrition, threatening to undermine the UK's role on the global stage, weaken international relationships with low- and middle-income countries, and harm the UK's strategic interests.

A strong international nutrition budget is essential to a secure and stable world, and reduces the need for defence interventions. We continue to urge the UK Government to protect vital nutrition spending within its limited budget. Investments in nutrition are low cost and high impact, representing one of the highest value development initiatives.

For every US\$1 invested in nutrition, US\$16 is returned to the local economy. The Government's Spending Review in June was a missed opportunity to correct this mistake.

The reduction in ODA received significant attention in Parliament, with MPs and Peers calling for nutrition spending to be protected in a time of fiscal constraint.

Questions and debates

Throughout the year, Members of the APPG on Nutrition for Development, together with cross-party Parliamentarians from across both Houses, have contributed to debates and oral questions in both chambers, as well as tabling written questions on global nutrition. The APPG has written to Ministers, calling for greater action on global nutrition, as well as working with other APPGs, Parliamentarians, and civil society organisations to raise the Parliamentary profile of malnutrition.

House of Commons

Oral questions

February Monica Harding MP highlighted spiralling famine in Sudan and insisted that far more action is needed to get food in. Steve Race MP said malnutrition is preventable, yet 3.2 million children are starving in Sudan where warring sides obstruct humanitarian aid. How is support reaching them, he asked.

March In the debate on the cut to ODA, MPs referenced the importance of good nutrition and programmes protecting food security, including Ellie Chowns MP, Abdisam Mohamed MP, Sarah Champion MP, Brian Mathew MP, Brian Leishman MP, and Monica Harding MP.

April Murina Wilson MP asked if the Foreign Secretary would protect child-focused programmes when reducing ODA, noting that child education and nutrition programmes were cut deepest in 2021.

May In a Westminster Hall debate on Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund, Steve Race MP said addressing under-nutrition and under-immunisation simultaneously can improve health outcomes and vaccine efficacy, providing interventions cost-effectively.

July In a Westminster Hall debate on Sudan's catastrophic humanitarian crisis, Steve Race MP stressed the unprecedented levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. How can the FCDO ensure the delivery and access of life-saving support, he asked.

Monica Harding MP highlighted that food is wielded as a weapon of war in Sudan where fighters blocking aid have caused famine. She urged the UK to work with partners to impose sanctions on parties breaking International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

November Edward Morello MP led a debate on planned reductions in ODA. He emphasised the cuts come as global need rises and many millions of children are suffering unimaginably from hunger. David Mundell MP highlighted the importance of protecting nutrition spending, and the Government's disappointing response to the International Development Committee's inquiry on SDG2, Zero Hunger.

December David Mundell MP emphasised the importance of the Child Nutrition Fund. He said it is a financing partnership pioneered by the UK with UNICEF, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and the Gates Foundation, which boosts UK development funding to improve the lives of millions of children.

Baggy Shanker MP drew attention to the plight of malnourished children in Gaza during the winter.

Written questions

February Luke Taylor MP asked what the Government is doing to address global child malnutrition.

March MPs asked if the UK would make a financial commitment at N4G Paris, including Wendy Morton MP, Ellie Chowns MP, James Naish MP. Sarah Champion MP asked about famine support to Sudan.

April Wendy Morton MP asked about nutrition integration, if the Government would make a financial commitment at N4G, supporting nutrition in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, and if the UK would integrate nutrition objectives into its climate work. Ellie Chowns MP asked about the Child Nutrition Fund. Stephen Gethins MP wanted to know about funding for emergency food and nutrition assistance to Sudan.



On World Food Day, Baroness Brown of Silvertown tabled a debate on starvation being used as a weapon of war

House of Lords

July Lord Oates asked Baroness Chapman how the Government is working with smaller agencies to reach malnourished people in Sudan.

October On World Food Day, Baroness Brown of Silvertown tabled a debate on how starvation is being used as a weapon of war. Malnutrition is the biggest killer of children under five she said, and IHL must be upheld.

November The Lord Bishop of Leeds asked the Government what assessment it had made of the humanitarian situation in Sudan. He laid out the staggering suffering there, where 25-30 million people are hungry and 16 million children need support. Lord Oates highlighted that ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF) pulls young children back from the brink of starvation. Baroness Goudie stressed that antenatal supplements would limit the perpetrators' impact on the next generation. Baroness Anelay spoke of how animal fodder, now human food, costs over £400.

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

Select Committee Inquiries

In 2025, UAMH submitted evidence to seven Select Committee Inquiries.

International Development Committee (IDC)

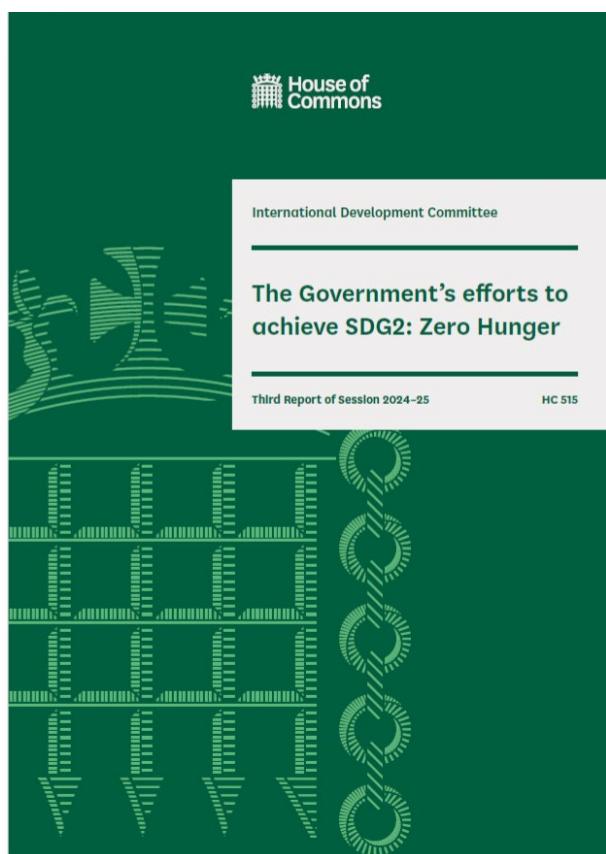
• **Inquiry The UK Government's work on achieving SDG2: Zero Hunger.** Our Expert Adviser, Dr Mairo Mandara, appeared in person to give evidence. Read UAMH's submission [here](#). We

welcomed the IDC's report, published in March [The UK Government's work on achieving SDG2: Zero Hunger](#). It called for the UK Government to lead by example to advance efforts to eliminate global hunger and make a bold and ambitious pledge at the N4G Summit. Read our response to the report [here](#). Read the [Government's response](#).

- **Inquiry The FCDO's approach to value for money.** Read UAMH's submission [here](#). The report [Assessing Value, Ensuring Impact: The FCDO's Approach to Value for Money in Official Development Assistance](#) was published October 2025.
- **Inquiry Humanitarian access and adherence to international humanitarian law.** Read UAMH's submission [here](#). The report [Protection not permission: The UK's role in upholding international humanitarian law and supporting the safe delivery of humanitarian aid](#) was published in June 2025. Read the [Government's response](#)
- **Inquiry Women, peace, and security.** The report has yet to be published.
- **Inquiry The UK's development partnership with Nigeria.** The report has yet to be published.
- **Inquiry Future of UK aid and development assistance.** The report has yet to be published

Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

- **Inquiry Innovation and Global Food Security.** The report has yet to be published.



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. Poverty, conflict, accelerating climate change, and gender inequality are all drivers of the global hunger crisis and frequently intersect. These connections are explored in the reports, published in 2025, listed below.

[Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop](#), United Against Malnutrition & Hunger and Informed International, published November 2025

Our report highlights a troubling doom loop between rising sovereign debt and worsening malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In 2023 alone, LMICs allocated more than US\$400 billion to debt repayments, more than they invested in social services like health and education.

The report, commissioned from Informed International, found that as debt repayments rose, nutrition programmes shrank, increasing vulnerability to illness, poor health, and premature death. The foundational nature of nutrition to economic and social development, make these findings particularly alarming, with malnutrition impacting health, learning, and productivity. Because malnutrition damages the brain, body, and immune system of each person, it holds back entire countries and their economies and can drive instability and conflict.

Between 2010 and 2023, in the nine LMICs analysed, sovereign debt surged by 250% and debt interest payments tripled compared to government revenues, corresponding with rising malnutrition and hunger. By 2023, one in five people were malnourished, two in five women of reproductive age were anaemic, and one in three children under five were stunted. The report also clearly shows that higher nutrition ODA correlates with stronger domestic investment by LMICs in their essential services which reduces rates of malnutrition. The research reveals an increase in the proportion of debt owed to private creditors, often under costly, opaque terms, limiting access to transformative finance.

It recommends key reforms to break the doom loop, and turn debt from a barrier to a driver of progress including:



- Protecting nutrition budgets during fiscal crises
- Ringfencing nutrition in ODA
- Promoting debt transparency
- Debt for nutrition swaps, linking debt relief to measurable nutrition outcomes
- Reforming debt sustainability assessments to reflect the impact of debt on nutrition.

With its global financial influence, the UK is well-placed to play a leading role in these reforms.

The report is also available as an Executive Summary [here](#).

Read the full story [here](#).

[Healthy Women, Children and Newborns \(HWCN\): A Coordinated Approach to Ending Preventable Deaths](#), FCDO

[2025 Global Hunger Index](#), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide, and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV)

[Assessing Value, Ensuring Impact: The FCDO's Approach to Value for Money in Official Development Assistance](#), International Development Committee

[Accounting FCDO's Progress Against its Nutrition Pledges](#), Nutrition Action for Systemic Change (NASC)

[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025](#), co-authored by five UN agencies: the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the UN Children's Fund

[Accelerating Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems Transitions for People and Planet: UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake](#), United Nations Secretary General

[Understanding Moments of Change in Food Systems Transformation: Examples from around the World](#), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

[Global Report on Food Crises \(GRFC\) 2025](#), Food Security Information Network (FSIN)

To receive our yearly reviews, newsletters and find out more about United Against Malnutrition & Hunger, please contact our Head of Campaigns and Communications, **Emma Fabian** at emma.fabian@uamh.org



**United Against
Malnutrition & Hunger**



The launch of [Debt and Malnutrition: Ending the Doom Loop](#) at Central Hall, Westminster. The report analysed data from nine low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), Bangladesh, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone. Between 2010 and 2023, their average debt burden surged by almost 250%, far outpacing economic growth and dwarfing payments made in ODA

[Hunger Hotspots FAO–WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity June to October 2025 outlook](#), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP)

[Protection not permission: The UK's role in upholding international humanitarian law and supporting the safe delivery of humanitarian aid](#), International Development Committee

[Conflict, Hunger and International Humanitarian Law: A Practitioner's Legal Handbook](#), FCDO and Ministry for Defence

[In the interest of children: How the UK Government can fulfil their manifesto promise to "tackle unsustainable debt."](#) Save the Children

[International Development Committee's Report on SDG2: Zero Hunger](#), International Development Committee

[Building resilience and enhancing nutrition in Africa's food systems](#), Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, produced in collaboration with the governments of Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia

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