



**Craig Whittaker MP**

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**Tackling Hunger and Malnutrition**

Thank you for contacting me about malnutrition.

Tackling hunger in developing countries is hugely important, so I welcome progress on this front. Between 2011 and 2015, DFID reached over 30 million children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women through nutrition-related programmes, and provided food security to 3.7 million people.

Poverty is one of the main causes of hunger, as most people are hungry or undernourished because they cannot afford to buy sufficient nutritious food. Much of the solution to hunger will therefore depend on inclusive economic growth, in particular in the agriculture sector. Promoting global prosperity is a key priority for DFID. Tackling acute child under-nutrition is also a strong part of the UK's humanitarian work.

I believe it is right to prioritise the delivery of the Global Goals. DFID is continuing to scale-up support for both direct nutrition services and programmes to address the underlying causes of malnutrition. Current forecasts show that the UK is on track to deliver on the 2015 Conservative manifesto commitment to improve the nutrition of 50 million people who would otherwise go hungry by 2020.

I do think it is important that we encourage other donors to prioritise nutrition as well. I know that DFID does this through the G7, the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, and through bilateral channels. The UK is also working with other Nutrition for Growth (N4G) signatories to fulfil the commitments made at the N4G Summit in 2013, including working to prevent 20 million children becoming stunted.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP