



THE

GLOBAL MALNUTRITION

INITIATIVE

Supporting children to survive, thrive
and go on to build a better future



**Save the
Children**

Hassan at a follow up visit to a mobile health centre in Somaliland, supported by the Global Malnutrition Initiative. Hassan was malnourished, but with the help of nutrient-dense food packets, his grandmother says he has grown and is looking much healthier.

“Hassan’s health has greatly improved.”

Faadumo, grandmother of four-year-old Hassan



All children should have the chance to fulfil their potential, but more than 50 million children’s futures are at risk because of malnutrition. It’s one of the greatest and most overlooked humanitarian challenges of our time.

That’s why **Save the Children** launched the **Global Malnutrition Initiative**. By taking an innovative approach to tackling this condition in some of the most challenging contexts, together we will help more children win their fight for survival.

We need to raise **£10 million** by 2023 for this ambitious initiative. With your support, and working closely with partners and families, we’re delivering life-saving treatment to those who need it, and we’ll test and roll out simplified tools to help manage malnutrition at the community level. We’ll encourage other key players to adopt, fund and support

this approach. And we’ll look at why children relapse and how we can stop this from happening.

Why we need to act now

For the first time in decades, global hunger is on the rise. Nearly half of deaths in children under five are linked to malnutrition, and a big part of this is that many children can’t access life-saving treatment.

The impacts of COVID-19, combined with disasters such as conflict and climate-related drought and flooding, are exacerbating existing food crises. As a result, we’re seeing many more children becoming malnourished. Not only are these children at immediate risk from serious health problems – the long-term effects of malnutrition on health,

A child who is malnourished is **11 times** more likely to die from common infections such as measles, malaria and diarrhoea than a child who has enough food.

development and education dramatically limit a child’s lifelong potential.

The impacts of the pandemic threaten decades of progress in the global effort to tackle acute malnutrition. This is especially true for low-income countries and areas affected by conflict, where health systems are already fragile.

Why is Save the Children best placed to lead this work?

Save the Children has more than 100 years’ experience of helping children to stay healthy and happy. Each year we support millions of children and their families with cash grants for food, advice on good nutrition and treatment to beat malnutrition. By 2030, we want no child to die from a preventable disease, including malnutrition.

We stand side by side with children and families in everything we do. The Global Malnutrition Initiative is driven by communities, and we work with local community health workers, families, organisations and governments to create sustainable change.

THE GLOBAL MALNUTRITION INITIATIVE

In 2018 we launched the Global Malnutrition Initiative, to tackle malnutrition for children affected by poverty, conflict and climate change. We're working with communities to develop the knowledge, training and tools to address malnutrition at a local level and using rigorous research to build evidence on what works.

We focus on fragile and conflict-affected countries where children are most at risk of not being able to receive the treatment they need, including **Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan** and **Yemen**. If we can secure the funding, we'll expand our work to help more children in countries such as the **Democratic Republic of Congo**.

We're already making great progress, treating thousands of children, and the efficacy of the simplified approaches we're piloting is shining through. In Kenya, for example, one critical study has shown that treatment for acute malnutrition delivered by community health workers is just as effective as treatment in health facilities. Importantly, the early evidence shows that it is likely more cost-effective too.



In our target areas, as many as **1 in 4** children is malnourished.

40%

70%

Where there is treatment available in our target areas, only **40%** of children are accessing it. We aim to increase this to **70%**.

Test and scale up pioneering approaches to treating malnutrition in hard-to-reach areas

We've introduced simplified tools and guidance for community health workers – including colour-coded arm circumference tapes and modified weighing scales – that can be used effectively by people with little or no literacy or numeracy skills. This is crucial to help more children who can't get to a regional health centre get the treatment and follow up they need in the community.

We're working closely with our partner University College London on further research to show how effective community-based care can be, and push for this approach to be adopted much more widely.

Helping to prevent children becoming malnourished again

Children who have been treated for acute malnutrition and recovered sometimes become malnourished again. This is known as 'relapse'. As a sector, we don't know enough about why this happens, how often it happens, or the long-term impact on children's development. We will conduct research to contribute to sector-wide knowledge, so we can design more effective solutions to make sure fewer children suffer repeated episodes of malnutrition.

Influence change on a bigger scale

Save the Children is a leading voice in childhood malnutrition. Joining forces with local, national and international organisations, we can achieve greater change for children.

The Global Malnutrition Initiative works with governments and civil society organisations to scale up our community-based model. With our advocacy work, we push key decision-makers to support the fight against malnutrition and influence key donors to commit to greater, longer-term investment.

In Somalia and Kenya, we're working closely alongside health ministries on the wider adoption and scale-up of the simplified approaches we're developing in partnership.

How you can help

Our vision is that all children can grow, develop, and become who they want to be.

We have an incredible opportunity to drive a step-change in the global response to malnutrition – but we must act now. We need your help to raise £10 million by 2023 for this ambitious initiative. Working hand in hand with communities and partners, together we can help more children survive and flourish, and catalyse a global movement to improve the way we tackle malnutrition.



Mark is a community health worker in Kenya who was trained to diagnose children with severe malnutrition and treat it. He also helps families take care of their children when they get sick.

SIR MO FARAH, PATRON OF THE GLOBAL MALNUTRITION INITIATIVE, SAYS:

“I am a proud Ambassador of Save the Children and its incredible work around the world.

I am especially delighted to help spearhead the Global Malnutrition Initiative. This initiative will reach thousands of children in need, and change for good the way malnutrition is prevented, diagnosed and treated in some of the world’s most fragile countries.

As a father of four, it’s hard to see the desperate situation facing children in many parts of the world, including in Somalia where I was born. I’m really pleased to help Save the Children raise awareness of this initiative and, crucially, secure much needed funds to deliver this life-saving work.”

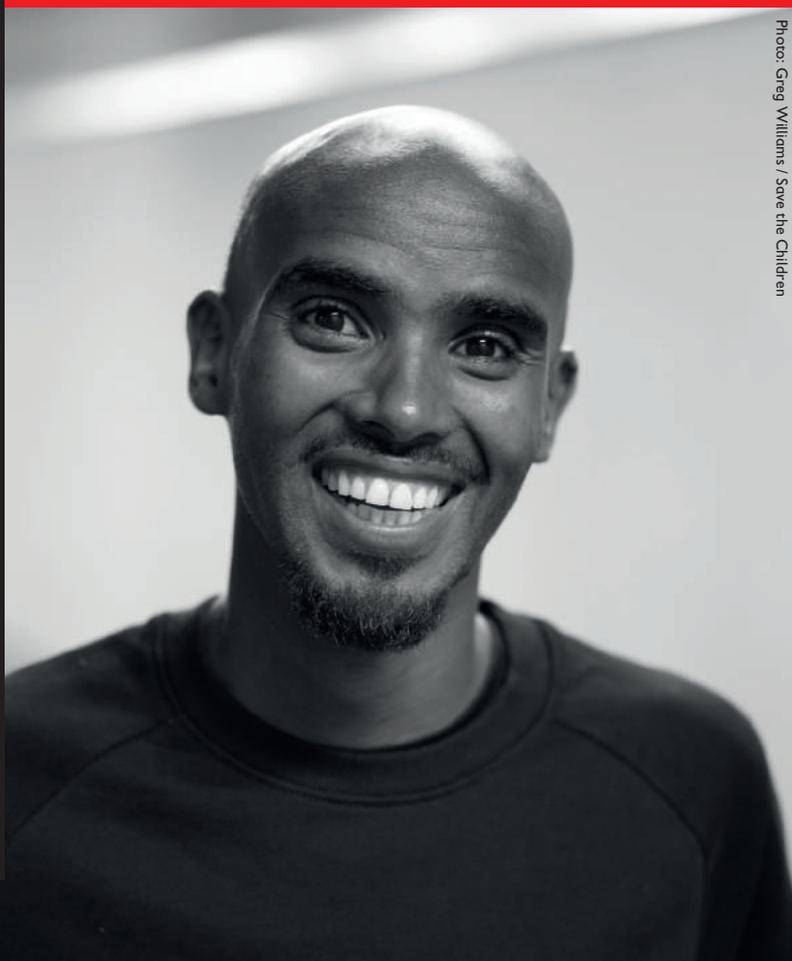


Photo: Greg Williams / Save the Children

Watch our video or scan the QR code to see how we’re already helping children like Lawrence and Leolida to survive and thrive.

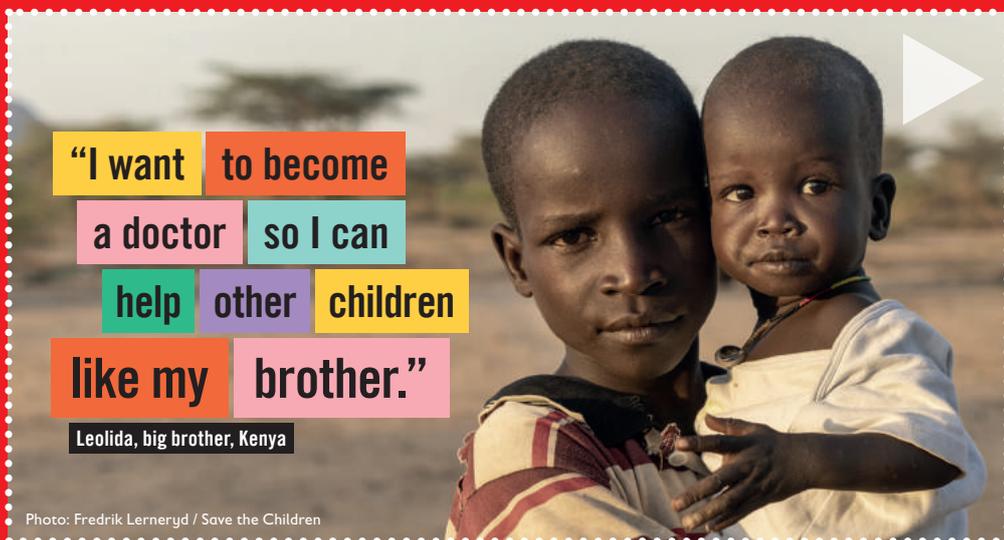


Photo: Fredrik Lerneryd / Save the Children

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Cover photo: Axmed’s mother Ilhan brought him to our mobile health centre because he was malnourished. Ilhan was given nutrient-dense biscuits for Axmed and advice on nutrition. Mustafa Saeed / Save the Children.

Some children’s names have been changed to protect their identity.

Save the Children Fund is a charity registered in England & Wales (213890), Scotland (SC039570) and Isle of Man (199).

Contact us to find out more about how you can help to tackle malnutrition: Philanthropy@savethechildren.org.uk
www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/philanthropy/global-malnutrition-initiative

