



LAUNCH OF THE GNR–UAMH POLICY BRIEF

Global nutrition funding: What is being lost and what can be rebuilt?

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Nutrition is one of the best investments in development, and the UK helped build the case

The challenge

2.6 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet

150 million children affected by stunting

US$41 tn in lost productivity over 10 years

The opportunity

23 : 1 return on investment in nutrition

US$2.4 tn in economic benefits by 2034

62 million deaths of children under five avoided

London, 2013

The UK convenes the first Nutrition for Growth summit

US$1 bn

disbursed by the UK to nutrition in 2015

50.6 million

children, women and adolescent girls reached by UK nutrition programmes, 2015–2019

Sources: GNR (2026); DFID (2019); World Bank (2024)

The Report links evidence, country experience and commitments to action

Integrating food and health systems

A framework showing where each system depends on the other, and what enables joint action

Analysing the evidence

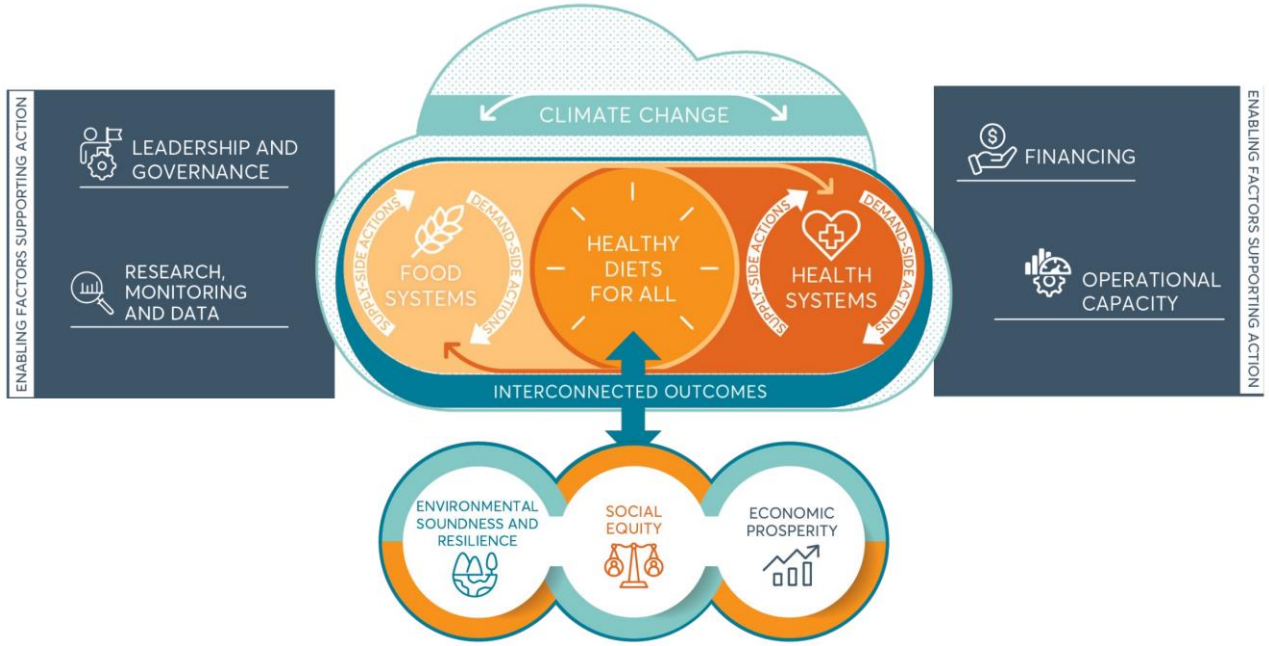
Five commissioned papers on resilience, climate, gender, governance and integration

Learning from country experience

How countries protected nutrition through Covid-19, conflict and climate shocks

From N4G commitments to action

Analysis of 1,485 commitments made at the Tokyo 2021 and Paris 2025 summits

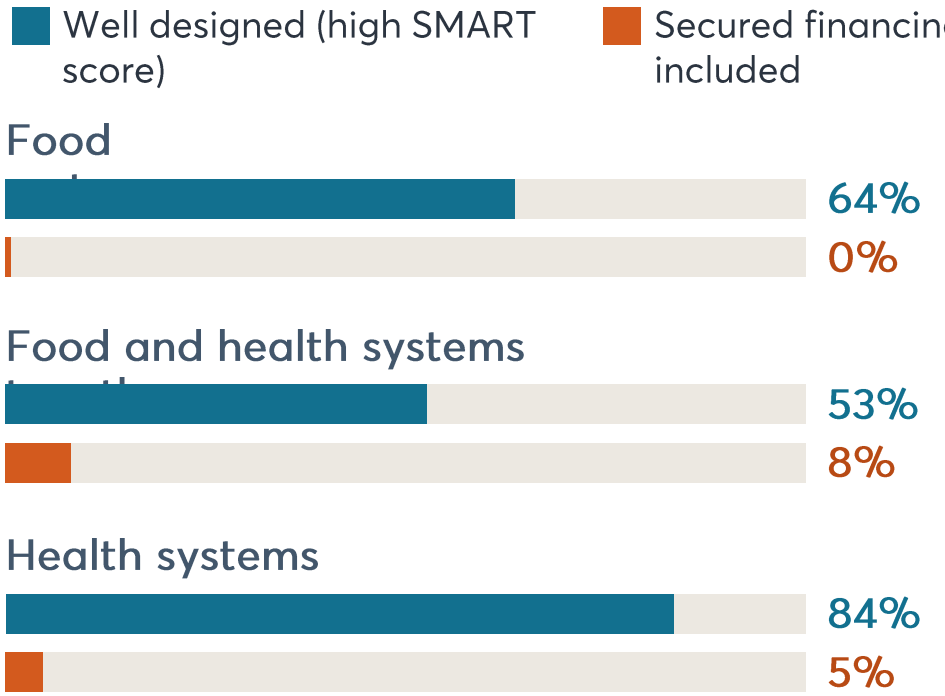


Key finding: Integrated platforms built before a shock protected nutrition faster

Sources: GNR (2026)

Nutrition commitments are better designed than ever, but almost none come with money

Government commitments at the N4G Paris Summit, 2025, by theme



Meanwhile, aid is being cut

–23%
donor aid in real terms in 2025, the sharpest fall on record

0.7% → 0.3%
UK aid as a share of national income, 2020 to 2027

–61%
UK nutrition aid in 2021 alone

So what happens to these systems when the financing is withdrawn? We asked the people who run them.

Sources: GNR (2026); OECD (2026)

Funding cuts have reached almost every part of the nutrition system

78%

say their nutrition work has been affected by funding cuts

55%

have had at least some nutrition activities reduced

15%

have had all of their nutrition activities terminated

1 in 5

affected respondents do not expect to continue their nutrition work

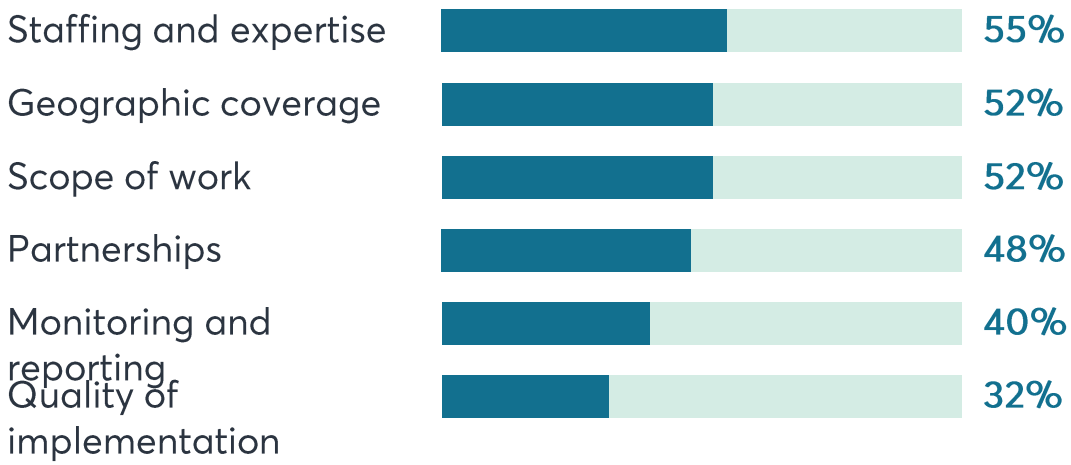
> *"The major impact is that we could not reach the vulnerable populations we were supposed to reach."*
>
> Donor organisation, Nepal

Source: GNR–ACTION DATA stakeholder survey, 2026 (n = 409; 1 in 5 = 61 of 318)

Organisations are surviving, not adapting, and survival uses up tomorrow's capacity

Even after adapting, about half still report high or severe damage

Share of affected respondents rating the remaining impact as high or severe



1. **Those most in need are reached least**
   Under-fives, mothers and displaced groups lose contact
2. **Programmes are running on less**
   68% cut the scope of work; 50% cut geographic coverage
3. **Prevention is the first thing to go**
   Outreach and counselling are cut before treatment
4. **The workforce is shrinking**
   67% adjusted staffing or technical capacity
5. **Evidence is going dark**
   45% cut data collection; deterioration may go unseen

Without bridge funding, today's service cuts become tomorrow's crisis.

Source: GNR–ACTION DATA stakeholder survey (2026). Selected dimensions; 272–282 respondents rated each.

Seven ways the UK can once again become a leader in global nutrition

1

Develop diverse sources of finance

Blend public, philanthropic and private capital, with the GFF and MDBs

2

Maximise funding for nutrition

Advocacy with MDBs, philanthropic partners and domestic resource mobilisation

3

Use debt relief to protect nutrition

Pilot debt-for-nutrition swaps where debt service squeezes public budgets

4

Equitable, accountable partnerships

Safeguard long-term UK investment in food systems and nutrition research

5

Develop longer funding cycles

Multi-year commitments, adjusted as needs and budgets change

6

Pre-agreed contingency finance

Bridge financing to protect services, staff and supplies during cuts

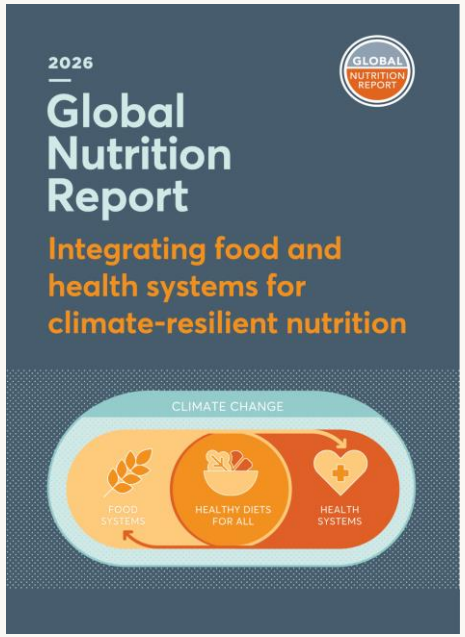
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Publish nutrition objectives

Include measurable nutrition outcomes in health, food systems, climate adaptation and social protection investments, and publish the nutrition outcomes target pledged at the Paris N4G Summit

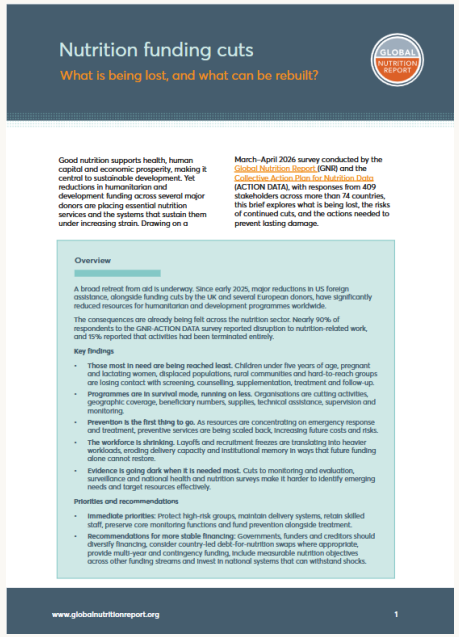
Source: GNR–UAMH brief (2026), Nutrition funding cuts in the UK context (2026)

Read the Report and the new brief



2026 Global Nutrition Report

Integrating food and health systems for climate-resilient nutrition



GNR–UAMH brief

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