

Elite Stakeholder Poll: Combatting Malnutrition Through Sustainable Interventions

Results

The devastating long-term human and economic costs of malnutrition in the developing world are demonstrated by the crucial role of nutrition in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and eradicating poverty in developing countries. It is high time for the EU to take leadership in the global efforts to tackle hunger and malnutrition through focused, effective and sustainable action, by acknowledging the urgency of responding to the epidemic of malnutrition through targeted, sustainable nutrition interventions in the framework of the EU development aid policy.

As PA International has learned by polling senior leaders of the development policy and international relations communities, representing IGOs, state agencies, NGOs, the private sector and the scientific community, the development community is fully behind a push for greater action, political and financial commitment from the European Union to lead the way in eradicating malnutrition. The extent to which they agree is staggering, as demonstrated by the solidarity shown at the conference and the unequivocal results of this poll:

- **96% of over 150 elite respondents believe nutrition is an important element within international and European development policy**
- **An overwhelming majority (88%) believes that the European Commission's budget support for nutrition (3.14% of the total) Commission budget is insufficient and should be increased.**
- **Correspondingly, 88% consider that nutrition should be given a much greater (43%) or greater (45%) role in EU foreign and development policy.**

The implications of these figures are inescapable. As the speakers at the conference have argued, there is now a clear desire for the EU to become more involved and take up a leadership role in the global fight against malnutrition.

Success, for these stakeholders, can only be achieved through sustainable action. **A vast majority of the stakeholders polled by PA International - 77% - consider sustainability to be the unit of measure for success in an intervention in response to malnutrition.** On sustainable interventions for effective action, a consensus is also emerging on what can be done:

- **92% - virtually all respondents – see the potential for industry to contribute to this process, with 72% of the opinion that the role of industry should be greater**
- **76% of the respondents would like to see an increase in the role of Public Private Partnerships in nutrition. A comprehensive 83% would like to see an increase in the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in nutrition within development policy.**

These results demonstrate a clear desire on the part of all actors who are involved in eradicating poverty and improving the lives of billions around the globe. The people have spoken: the EU must act sustainably and effectively on nutrition, and it must act now.