

# Speech: Preventing Hunger as a Weapon of War

*Updated:* World location not added.

Thank you Madam President.

Our briefers today have sounded the alarm and warned us of the surging levels of acute hunger, which are largely attributable to conflict. But this is not for the first time.

Over a year ago, the Secretary General drew this Council's attention to the change in the long-term trend in global hunger: it was now rising for the first time in a decade. The situation was critical, he said; the UN predicted four simultaneous famines, threatening the lives of 20 million people.

Through the generosity of donors and the actions of humanitarian and development organisations, international financial institutions and regional governments, famine itself was prevented, or at least contained.

But let's be clear. Over the past year, suffering and hunger has increased. In the world today, one out of every nine people is undernourished. That is 815 million people, an increase of 38 million in the last year.

Conflict is the main reason for this increase in hunger. 60 percent of hungry and malnourished people live in countries affected by conflict.

Almost 75% of the world's 155 million stunted children under the age of five live in countries affected by conflict. It is the most vulnerable – particularly women and children – who are most affected by hunger. These figures indicate that the actions we have taken in the past year to reduce hunger have not been enough. As so clearly put by our briefers, we must examine and address the root causes of this severe hunger crisis if we hope to put an end to it.

Madam President,

Last August, this Council adopted a Presidential Statement that, for the first time, acknowledged that hunger and conflict are linked. That was a step forward, but it only gives us half the picture. In the statement, the Security Council emphasized with deep concern (and I quote), "that ongoing conflicts and violence have devastating humanitarian consequences and hinder an effective humanitarian response ....and are therefore a major cause of famine."

This reads as if hunger is just an inevitable consequence of war, or a by-product of the changing nature of conflict. That is clearly not the case. Hunger does not need to be a product of war, and I hope we can make that clear in future Council products.

We must understand and acknowledge the true nature of the problem to take the necessary collective actions to break the deadly links between conflict and hunger.

In this regard, we see three key areas of responsibility for this Council:

First, to redouble efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, and build and sustain peace.

Second, we must uphold international humanitarian and human rights law. We are fast approaching a new normal where warring parties think it is acceptable to destroy crops, interrupt markets, and attack water points, hospitals, and schools. Too often there is a lack of accountability for the state actors and other parties to conflict who are responsible for increasing hunger.

Third, we must actively safeguard humanitarian access. In almost all of the crises before this Council, people are denied or unable to access essential aid, often with the most vulnerable people being the worst affected. The Security Council can and must play a key role to enable the safe, unhindered and rapid access of populations to humanitarian assistance. We must engage with national and regional authorities to apply diplomatic pressure and insist on the removal of access constraints, and we should pursue accountability for any violations.

Madam President,

We must think creatively when responding to this crisis. For example, to identify the most serious cases of obstructed access objectively, we could use a model that articulates access in terms of needs met by the delivery of health care, protection, and education, rather than simply by numbers of aid convoys. We could also factor in denial of access to the design of sanctions mandated by this Council more routinely.

Madam President,

We are extremely grateful to you and to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for calling this meeting because it is a subject about which the UK deeply cares and is deeply engaged as the third largest humanitarian donor.

The scale of the challenge we are facing is clear. The threat of famine remains. In a world of abundance, 815 million people are still hungry. Their hunger is used as a weapon of war. We must act and use the tools at our disposal to show the world that this is not acceptable and that we do not accept it. We must seek accountability and we must make the consequences of these appalling actions clear.

Thank you.

---

# **Official Statistics: Residues of veterinary medicines in food: 2018**

*Updated:* Updated table

This document contains information on substances found in the UK where the level of concentration of a residue in an animal product is above the action point. Where a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) is set, this is the concentration used. Where no MRL has been set, the Limit of Quantification (LOQ) is used which is the smallest analyte concentration for which a method has been validated with specified accuracy and precision to enable quantification.

The first table is a summary of the following detailed results table with outcomes of investigations into non-compliant samples and what action is being taken to avoid unacceptable residues in the future.

---

## **Notice: NR21 0NR, Ralph Harrison & Company Limited: environmental permit issued**

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Ralph Harrison & Company Limited
- Installation name: Clipstone Duck Unit
- Permit number: EPR/YP3336YS/A001

---

## **Notice: SY10 8HQ, Knockin Growers Limited: environmental permit application advertisement**

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste

operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

---

## [Press release: £260 million of clean air funding launched by government](#)

*Updated:* List of AQ grant recipients added.

A package of funding worth more than £260 million has today been launched by the government to help improve air quality in some of the most polluted areas.

The [UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations](#) was produced by the government in July 2017, and outlined that councils with the worst levels of air pollution at busy road junctions and hotspots must take robust action in the shortest time possible.

Fulfilling a commitment to support local authorities to deliver these plans, the government has today [launched a £220 million Clean Air Fund](#) to minimise the impact of local plans on individuals and businesses. A range of options local authorities could consider to utilise this money such as new park and ride services, freight consolidation centres, concessionary travel schemes and improvements to bus fleets have been set out.

At the same time, more than £40 million from the £255 million Implementation Fund has been awarded to support local authorities take action as soon as possible to improve air quality.

This includes:

- £11.7 million to the 28 local authorities with the biggest air quality challenges to help carry out the work needed to develop air quality plans, including securing resource and expertise
- £24.5 million to the same 28 local areas to support a range of measures

to take action locally. Examples include installing electric charge point hubs in car parks; junction improvements; bus priority measures; building cycle routes; incentivising ultra-low emission taxis through licensing schemes and leasing electric vehicles; and traffic management and monitoring systems

- £2.4 million from the 2017/18 Air Quality Grant for local community projects to tackle air quality at a grass roots level. This comes in addition to £3.7 million already awarded in last year's Air Quality Grant, which included an award winning project taken forward by Westminster City Council to provide advice and toolkits for small and medium businesses to reduce transport emissions from deliveries associated with their operations
- £1.65 million to support the 33 local authorities that have been asked to conduct targeted feasibility studies to identify measures that could bring forward compliance dates within the shortest possible time

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

We have been clear that local leaders are best placed to develop innovative plans that rapidly meet the needs of their communities. Today's funding demonstrates the government's commitment to support the local momentum needed and continue to improve our air now and for future generations.

Improving air quality is about more than just tackling emissions from transport, so later this year we will publish a comprehensive Clean Air Strategy. This will set out how we will address all forms of air pollution, delivering cleaner air for the whole country.

Today's announcement is part of a £3.5 billion plan to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions.

## Air Quality Grant

We've published [more details on the Air Quality Grant](#). Successful projects for 2017/18 are listed below:

Local authority	Project	Amount
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (with Doncaster)	ECO-STARS bus and taxi fleet	£125,000
Blaby District Council	Schools and SMEs behavioural change and action plan	£59,000
Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Air quality feasibility study	£195,000
Canterbury City Council	Awareness campaign in schools and community on transport and domestic burning stoves	£33,354

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cheshire West and Chester	Local research on domestic burning stoves and health impacts	£44,000
City of York Council (with Lancaster, Mid Devon)	Local authority officer knowledge sharing online platform	£216,008
East Sussex County Council (with West Sussex, Brighton, Chichester, Horsham, Adur, Crawley, Mid Sussex, Worthing, Lewes)	Action plan for schools and businesses in AQMAS	£105,900
Kirklees (Bradford, Calderdale, Wakefield)	Domestic and commercial awareness campaign and action plan	£106,292
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Community action plan and business engagement on emissions from industry and transport	£107,864
Oxford City Council	Electric vehicle charging points, electric fleet, technical study	£192,500
Portsmouth City Council	Communications package and cycling infrastructure	£450,000
Reading Borough Council	Electric vehicle charging points in residential areas	£100,000
Spelthorne Borough Council (Surrey Air Alliance)	Awareness campaign in schools across the county.	£145,188
St Helens Council (with Liverpool City Region, Liverpool, Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, Wirral)	Air quality website for Liverpool residents	£74,000
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (with Tamworth, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme and The Moorlands)	Council partnership action plan, public and business engagement, business and school travel plans with annual monitoring, electric vehicle charging point and a clean air campaign.	£208,000
Westminster City Council ((Cross River Partnership) with Lambeth, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Lewisham)	Working with businesses across 5 boroughs to help reduce their emissions	£232,850
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,394,956</b>