



David Nabarro is a doctor who led the U.N.'s response to the cholera epidemic in Haiti. | Getty

## Nutrition pioneers awarded 2018 World Food Prize

By **ALEXANDER NIEVES** | 06/25/2018 11:54 AM EDT

The prestigious World Food Prize was awarded Monday to Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro for their work combating global child undernutrition.

Haddad and Nabarro have spent decades leading independent nonprofits and U.N. missions with the goal of making nutritious food more readily available worldwide. They are credited with contributing to a movement that has helped reduce the number of children with stunted growth as a result of undernutrition by 10 million between 2012-2017, according to a press release.

Haddad is the executive director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, where since July 2016 he spearheads efforts to make healthy food options more affordable and more accessible to food insecure groups. GAIN works with public and private stakeholders in both developed and developing nations to tackle issues like food waste, farming financing and marketing of nutritious food.

Haddad was previously the head of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex from 2004-2014 and the U.K.'s representative on the U.N.'s Committee on World Food Security.

"The easiest food choices are often the unhealthy ones; we have to make healthy food choices easy," Haddad told POLITICO in an interview. "That means they're in front of you when you're in the store, the store is within walking distance and they're not expensive."

Nabarro is a doctor who led the U.N.'s response to the cholera epidemic in Haiti and served as a special envoy during the Ebola crisis. From 2008-2014, he headed the U.N. High Level Task Force on Global Food Security. Nabarro was also the coordinator of the U.N.'s Scaling Up Nutrition Movement from 2010-2014, during which he organized a coalition of 54 countries and an Indian state to use science-based policies to fight malnutrition in South Asia and Africa.

"It was learning from groups at the community level, from watching them take responsibility for this, that gave me the greatest inspiration," Nabarro said in an interview with POLITICO. "The nutrition movement truly is run from within communities and countries where multiple stakeholders are working together."

Both Haddad and Nabarro say they are now also focused on the rapid increase in the number of overweight children due to the consumption of food high in sugars and fats.

"I don't see trends in anything else that scare me as much," Haddad said. "The money that goes into health systems to deal with obesity is going to be drawn away from the undernutrition issues, the hunger issues."

The World Food Prize, which was founded in 1986 by scientist and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Norman Borlaug, is often referred to as the Nobel Prize for food and agriculture.

Haddad and Nabarro will receive their awards at a ceremony in Iowa in October and split \$250,000 in prize money.

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