

Houses of Parliament
London
SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Secretary of State
Department for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

8 August 2016

Dear Secretary of State

As parliamentarians supportive of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, we wanted to write to you following your appointment to highlight the incredible international leadership that the UK government has shown through its investment in the Global Fund and to call on you to continue this commitment.

As you will know, the Global Fund is the principal international financing institution that aims to end these three epidemics. Created in 2002, it was the driving force in making progress towards the Millennium Development Goals' target to halt and reverse the spread of HIV, TB and malaria – the world's leading infectious killers. To date, the programmes that it funds have saved 17 million lives and led to a one-third decline in deaths from the three diseases in countries where the Fund invests.

As a leading donor to the Global Fund from the outset, the UK government can be proud of its contribution to achieving this progress. This progress means that today we have the unique window of opportunity to achieve what once seemed impossible – to end the epidemics of AIDS, TB and malaria within our lifetime.

We encourage you to show leadership as the Global Fund seeks to mobilise at least \$13 billion, ahead of its Fifth Replenishment Pledging Conference in Montreal on 16 September, to help save more than 8 million lives and avert 41.4 million new infections across the three diseases over the next three years.

Realising \$13 billion will be crucial in making progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which the UK brokered last year and which call for an end to the epidemics by 2030. Reaching the SDGs, however, will require an increase in effective investment; if we carry on business as usual, for example, it will take at least 150 years to end the TB epidemic rather than 15. Indeed, this is the first big test for the Goals: a test of whether we will deliver on our promises to the world. Investing in the Global Fund will help progress towards not only the goal on health but to others, including those on education, inequality, governance and the economy. Improving global health will significantly help international stability and security, as well as creating greater opportunity, prosperity and well-being.

The Fund's model also aims to improve the health and the wealth of countries that it invests in through counterpart financing, requiring national governments to progressively increase their share of funding for health, ensuring that countries take ownership for tackling their own disease burden.

With this in mind, we are writing to call on the UK Government to continue to show leadership through the Global Fund and to increase its commitment this Pledging Conference by 20% to £1.2 billion - or a 14% share of the overall replenishment target. Many other donors (including Canada, the EC and Japan) have already stepped up and increased their contributions by at least 20%, recognising the need to increase investment in order to reach the SDGs by 2030. In addition to the 20% uplift in line with other donors, this 14% share represents the UK's current share of ODA amongst OECD countries. A contribution of £1.2 billion to the Global Fund by the UK government will help to transform the lives of 1.1 million people. While realising the replenishment target is not the UK's responsibility alone, it has a key role to play, especially in encouraging and leveraging other donors. The US has pledged to support up to 33% of the total funds needed and a commitment of £1.2 billion from the UK will help unlock this.

The Global Fund has been rated highly in terms of value for money: DFID's last Multilateral Aid Review described it as 'very good value for money', it scored an A plus overall in DFID's 2015 annual review and it was ranked as one of the top five organisations for aid transparency in the Aid Transparency Index by Publish What You Fund. Furthermore, the Global Fund has played a catalytic role in spurring greater investment through leveraging private and public sector financing and stimulating significantly increased domestic investments in fighting the three diseases. The Global Fund has successfully brought in a 52% increase in projected domestic investments in health for 2015 – 2017 and has reduced commodity costs through purchasing in volume. It has, for instance, worked with the UK to achieve a 38% reduction in the price of insecticide-treated nets since 2013.

A strong Global Fund pledge is essential to delivering UK aid objectives. The Global Fund has been the leading donor in addressing gender related challenges and improving the health of women and girls. Approximately 60% of Global Fund investment specifically targets women and girls. There has been significant return on this investment. Between 2005 and 2014, AIDS-related deaths among women experienced a 58% decline in the African countries hit hardest by the HIV epidemic and the proportion of pregnant women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy increased from 11% in 2009 to 62% in 2014.

The Global Fund also invests significantly in fragile and conflict affected states; 'Challenging Operating Environments' account for a third of the global disease burden for HIV, TB and malaria, and for a third of Global Fund investments.

In addition, the 2015 Conservative manifesto and the previous administration prioritised research and development for infectious diseases, through the creation of the Ross Fund and the seminal Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. Investment in the Global Fund will complement this work, helping to promote global health security. As noted by the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, diagnosing and treating people is integral to fighting resistance and the Global Fund has an important role to play in this regard.

A commitment of £1.2 billion will signal the strength of the UK's critical support at this tipping point in the trajectory of these three diseases. Without increased investment, there is the risk of resurgence of the diseases with potentially huge economic and social costs:

- The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) stated that if left unaddressed, by 2050 TB will be responsible for a quarter of AMR deaths (75 million over the next 35 years) and will cost the global economy US\$16.7 trillion. It further noted that 'tackling TB and drug-resistant TB must be at the heart of any global action against AMR'.
- UNAIDS has warned that without increased financing for the HIV response at this moment in time, the epidemic will outrun the response. After a steady decline, new infections and deaths will increase, resulting in greater economic and financial costs.
- If governments do not invest now in ending malaria in areas where key resistance is developing, recent gains could be wiped out. In the Mekong sub-region, for example, emerging mosquito resistance to insecticides combined with parasite resistance to the most effective antimalarial medicines could trigger a rise in global malaria mortality.

Recognising this unique opportunity to substantially improve the lives of millions of the most vulnerable people, as well as promoting global health security which will benefit the UK, we urge you to increase the UK's commitment to £1.2 billion to the Global Fund for 2017-19. By making this historic investment now, the UK can reaffirm its role as a global leader – helping realise the Sustainable Development Goals, saving millions of lives and ending these killer epidemics.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Twigg MP
 Oliver Colvile MP
 Patrick Grady MP
 Virendra Sharma MP
 Kirsten Oswald MP
 Philippa Whitford MP
 Caroline Lucas MP
 Mike Weir MP
 Stephen Doughty MP
 Jim Fitzpatrick MP
 Stephen Gethins MP
 Tommy Sheppard MP
 Kate Green MP
 Martyn Day MP
 Lord Oates
 Baroness Masham of Ilton
 Lord Cashman
 Lord Collins of Highbury
 Lord Black of Brentwood
 Lord Lexden
 Baroness Gould of Potternewton

Jeremy Lefroy MP
 Pauline Latham MP
 Gareth Thomas MP
 Mike Kane MP
 Peter Kyle MP
 Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP
 Grahame Morris MP
 Nigel Evans MP
 Dr Lisa Cameron MP
 Mark Durkan MP
 Nic Dakin MP
 Alex Cunningham MP
 Stewart McDonald MP
 Catherine McKinnell MP
 Baroness Suttie
 Lord Purvis of Tweed
 Baroness Barker
 Lord Chidgey
 Baroness Tonge
 Baroness Hayman