

A changing landscape in 2019

Planning our advocacy programme at a time of changing assumptions about aid.

2019 is likely to be another tumultuous year for international development, with ongoing political instability making long-held assumptions – about the purpose of UK aid, and our commitment to spending 0.7% of our national wealth on aid – increasingly questioned. Multilateralism and internationalism are under attack, making sustained and positive advocacy on development issues more important than ever. In the next 18 months or so, some important global health funding arrangements will be renewed, which will need your support. This month, we share what issues we expect to campaign on in 2019, and ask you to plan your own priorities and activities.

What have we achieved together in 2018?

2018 has been a tumultuous year, with global political uncertainty, Brexit, and attacks on international development spending. Yet the UK is committed to spending 0.7% of its national income on aid, and you've shown politicians and the public why #AidWorks. In 2018, the UK pledged £225 million to the [Global Partnership for Education](#). You alerted the Government to the risks to health in newly Middle-Income Countries as they face transition in their relationships with international donors. And 2018 saw the first ever UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB. You told your MP why this mattered, and some took part in the first debate on TB on the floor of the House in over 80 years. At the HLM, the UK announced £7.5 million of funding to further the development of new drugs to treat TB.

2019: Another year of change?

What Brexit will mean for the UK's relationship with the rest of the world is unclear, but it's likely that political uncertainty will remain well into 2019. And the UK's support for international development may well continue to be attacked in the media, as it has over the last two years. As Brexit looms, the Government has been redefining the role of 'Global Britain', and as part of this, to reconsider what UK aid is for. In August, the Prime Minister [said that aid must be in the national interest](#), helping countries create jobs and fight insecurity. In September, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt set out her vision for [the future of UK aid post-Brexit](#), stressing the role of the private sector in delivering global prosperity. The Government is planning a Spending Review in 2019, which will fix spending priorities for around 3-5 years

and determine the size of the UK's aid budget. Some big questions are quite rightly being asked by politicians, the media, and the public, such as: What is aid for, and how long will it continue to be needed? How can countries increasingly become responsible for their own basic services? And how can donors and international institutions become more effective at creating significant change? This makes 2019 a really important time to ensure that the Government directs UK aid spending firmly toward poverty reduction and to achieve the Global Goals.

An ongoing focus on global health

Health is vital for a productive and fulfilling life, alongside access to education and economic opportunities. But while progress has been made in some areas, such as increasing the coverage of essential vaccines, and tackling diseases such as TB and malaria, in some countries, progress is mixed or even reversing, and inequality of access to health is increasing. The UK has a strong track record on global health, as a leading donor to organisations such as [Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance](#), the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) and [The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#). It co-founded the 'Nutrition for Growth' agenda in 2013, and funds nutrition programmes around the world. All these important health funding initiatives will require renewed financial commitments from donors in 2019 or 2020. That means that governments must understand why investing in health matters, at a time when critics want to focus on domestic priorities, and for recipient countries to become more self-sufficient. Our [November 2018 action materials](#) show how these funds help to provide an effective package of aid to ensure healthy lives for all.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

27 new cases of the wild polio virus were detected in 2018, so a polio-free world cannot now be guaranteed until 2021 at the earliest. Continued vaccination campaigns are therefore needed to protect children from this debilitating disease. The GPEI will begin its replenishment process in 2019, and RESULTS will be campaigning hard to ensure the UK continues its financial support for the fight against polio.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

In 2019, we must hold countries to account for the commitments they made at September's UN High-Level Meeting to meet the global targets to end TB. Around 65% of all international funding for TB programmes is provided by the Global Fund, which is up for replenishment in October. The UK is one of its largest donors, pledging £1.1 billion for the period 2016-2019. The UK must carry on providing the Global Fund the resources it needs to continue saving millions of lives each year. While its results speak for themselves (it has saved 27 million lives since 2002), the size of this replenishment presents a real political challenge.

Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance

Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance creates equal access to vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries. Founded in 2000, it has helped to immunise more than 690 million children and has prevented more than 10 million deaths. In 2015, the UK pledged £1 billion over 5 years to Gavi, and is its largest donor. Gavi will need replenishing in 2020, and RESULTS will seek to ensure that the UK continues its strong support.

The 'Nutrition for Growth' agenda ('N4G')

Undernutrition plays a role in nearly half of all under-5 child deaths, and hinders the development of at least 200 million more children. Investing in nutrition saves millions of lives. It also makes economic sense: every £1 invested in nutrition can yield over £16 in return. The 'Nutrition for Growth agenda' championed by the UK Government has enabled big investments in nutrition, but to achieve global nutrition targets, much more is needed. The next N4G 'pledging moment' will be in 2020, when funding pledged back in 2013 come to an end. We will be campaigning for the UK to substantially increase its resources for nutrition in 2020.

Education for those furthest behind

Alongside health, education is a vital element of a productive life free from poverty. In the DFID education policy, the UK has committed to 'leave no one behind', yet those who are hardest to reach risk being left to last. In 2019, as part of the 'Send My Friend To School' campaign, RESULTS will be campaigning for the UK to prioritise the education of children with disabilities, children living in conflict, and girls. Also in 2019, the UK will be taking part in a 'Voluntary National Review' of its progress towards achieving the Global Goals.

An Advent of Advocacy Action!

Please use the information in this Action Sheet to help plan your campaigning in 2019. And if you can find some space in the run-up to the Christmas break to take action, we have put together a 'menu of actions' to choose from below.

Thank you for all your amazing efforts to fight poverty in 2018!

Action menu

- 1. Plan your activity for 2019.** Think about the changes you want to see in the world, and the activities you can take to help achieve them. We'll be suggesting monthly actions throughout the year. And don't forget to plan social activities as well as campaign actions! [Background Sheet 1](#) includes some known opportunities in 2019.
- 2. Send a Christmas card to your MP** about the importance of the Global Fund. Our allies at StopAIDS have produced [this calculator](#) to show how much the support of your constituency has contributed to the lives saved by the Global Fund. [Background Sheet 2](#) gives some ideas for messages for your card.
- 3. Help promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC).** UHC Day (12 December) is a great chance to share the importance of #HealthForAll on social media. To learn more, sign up to our [UHC Day webinar](#) with expert speaker Robert Yates, at 7 pm on Wednesday 12 December.
- 4. Contact your local media** to show [your support for UK aid](#). The period between Christmas and New Year has often seen attacks on international development in the media, so keep an eye on your news feeds!