

An Advent of Actions for December!

If you have time in the run up to the festive period, we are suggesting four actions you can take during the month of December:

1. Plan your activity for 2019

Take a look at [Background Sheet 1](#) for a calendar of key moments in 2019, and a helpful framework for your group to plan your campaigning for next year. 2018 has been a busy year of campaigning, but with many advocacy successes along the way. Why not organise a Christmas meal or social activity to celebrate 2018 as a group?

2. Send a Christmas or New Year card to your MP



**Through the Global Fund to Fight
AIDS, TB and Malaria**

VAUXHALL

has contributed towards:



8,767

LIVES SAVED SINCE 2002



Since its formation in 2002, 27 million lives have been saved by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. This great [new tool](#) from STOPAIDS breaks down your constituency's contribution to the Global Fund and how many lives have been saved through its UK aid contribution. As outlined in this month's Action Sheet, 2019 is an important year for the Global Fund, and the UK must remain a leading donor.

Sending your MP a Christmas or New Year card will inform them of how much your constituency has contributed to the important work of the Global Fund via its contribution to UK aid, and why it's important that the UK continues to support this life-saving organisation. You might like to include these talking points in your card:

- The Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by these diseases.
- In 2016, the UK pledged £1.1 billion to the Global Fund.
- Around 65% of all international funding for TB programmes, the world's leading infectious killer disease, is provided by the Global Fund.

3. Help promote Universal Health Coverage Day (12 December)

Every person – no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they have – should be able to access necessary health services without suffering financial hardship. Each year, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day is an opportunity to call for collective action towards this goal and involve a wide range of people in calling for strong and equitable health coverage that leaves no one behind. The theme of this year is ‘Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the time for collective action’. You can find a lot of information on UHC Day [here](#), including some suggested posts for [social media](#) and details of many of the events going on to mark UHC Day around the world! Don’t forget to attend our special [UHC Day webinar](#) too.



4. Contact your local media to show support for UK aid

NEW FOREIGN AID OUTRAGE UK'S £1BN FOREIGN AID CASHPOINT

We now pay £1 of every £7 given by rich countries. Only US hands out more

STANDING in line, these Pakistani families wait at a cashpoint used to withdraw money on cards loaded with funds from British taxpayers.

More than £1 billion of our foreign aid budget has been given away in cash over the past five years. It can be revealed today.

Despite warnings of fraud, officials have quietly squandered expenditure on cash and debit cards that recipients can spend at will. The budget has soared from £500million in 2005 to an annual average of £1.1 billion in the period 2011-15. MPs last night compared the system with handouts to 'vagrants in the dock'.

As much as £200million is being paid out to a scheme in Pakistan that has been dogged by claims of corruption. The men and women pictured above are queuing at a cash machine in Peshawar used by many to withdraw money under the project.

Around 250,000 families are pocketing payments every three months to boost their incomes, funded by UK taxpayers. Despite judging the scheme high risk, Whitehall officials plan to expand it to 441,000 Pakistan households by 2017.

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Often, the slow-news period between Christmas and New Year can see attacks on UK aid and international development in the media. By writing to your local media, you can make sure that the public read some positive stories on aid over the festive period. Take a look at [these tips](#) for contacting your local media and how to get published. You may like to include some of these impressive facts on UK aid:

- The UK spends 0.7% of its national income on international development and this makes a real difference to the lives of the world’s poorest people.
- Since 2011, UK aid has supported 11.3 million children into primary and lower secondary education and 5.6 million babies to be delivered by skilled birth attendants.
- UK aid saves and improves millions of lives every year, contributing to a healthier, safer and more prosperous world.
- Between 2016 and 2020, UK aid will have helped [Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance](#) to immunise 76 million children and save 1.4 million lives.