

Champions for development

Help build parliamentary champions for international development in 2020.

2020 is a vital year for the UK to continue to support the global institutions that do so much to overcome poverty and save lives. After its 2019 pledges of up to £1.4 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and £400 million to help rid the world of polio, the UK Government should carry on doing all it can to help achieve the goal of universal health coverage. In June, the UK will host a replenishment conference for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and in July, it has the chance to pledge renewed resources to overcome malnutrition.

Health is just one area where UK leadership is needed. Education is the cornerstone for sustainable development and it is vital for facing and fighting climate change, particularly for the most marginalised communities in the poorest countries. Yet, education for all is at risk from climate change, and education is neglected as part of the global climate response. The UK Government should seize the opportunity it has in 2020, as host of the UN 'Conference of the Parties' (COP26), and as a world leader in global education, to take decisive action to stop climate change undermining the right to education, and strengthen education's role in the global climate response.

But with just 10 years to achieve the Global Goals, the political consensus on the UK's aid spending is under threat. With many new MPs coming into Parliament after the UK's General Election on 12 December, now is the time to show that there is strong public support for the new Government – whoever is elected – to carry on its leadership in tackling these urgent global concerns. Please arrange to visit your new or re-elected MP after the election, to explain the importance of the UK's efforts to promote global health and education and to tackle climate change.

What's happening in 2020?

2020 will be another vital year for the UK to continue and deepen its support for the global institutions that do so much to overcome poverty and save lives. In 2019, the UK Government made two powerful financial pledges – of up to £1.4 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and £400 million to help rid the world of polio. This year, it should carry on doing all it can to help achieve the goal of universal health coverage (UHC), and has the chance to do so with two important international conferences – on nutrition and vaccinations – in 2020. It's also an important year for the UK to take action on access to education and the challenges of climate change.

The forthcoming General Election (12 December) is at the top of the news agenda right now. In the meantime, the work of Government goes on! Thank you to those of you who have [written to DFID Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft](#), asking the UK Government to maintain its level of support for immunisation efforts, and for him to brief the new ministerial team to that effect after the election.

Parliamentary champions needed!

With just 10 years to achieve the Global Goals, political will is needed now more than ever to build on the UK's excellent track record on international development, yet the political consensus on UK aid spending is under continued threat, despite the commitment to spending 0.7% of national income on aid being in all the main parties' manifestos. With many new MPs coming into Parliament after the election, and with many existing 'development champions' standing down this year, now is the time to show parliamentarians of all political parties that there is strong public support for the UK to take action on the urgent global concerns of access to health, education and economic opportunity, and the need to tackle climate change.

RESULTS is well placed to help build the commitment of new MPs to international development, with our history of working positively across all the major parties to gain support, policies and funding for international development, finding common ground in the aim of ending poverty by 2030. There are [many things you can ask an MP to do](#), depending on their level of support for and interest in development issues. The most active champions hold regular meetings with Government

Ministers, host events, and are very knowledgeable about the issues. Parliamentarians can also take part in debates or pledge their support, and even those who aren't very interested will usually write to the Minister when requested by a constituent.

This month, we're asking you to visit your new or re-elected MP to start or build their support for international development. We're also asking you to plan your year of advocacy! RESULTS will be campaigning on these issues in 2020:

1. Vaccinations for all

Vaccination saves 2-3 million lives each year and plays an important role in poverty reduction. However, progress on improving access to vaccines is stalling, and only 11% of children receive all 11 of the WHO's recommended vaccines before their first birthday. [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#) is one of the world's biggest multilateral health partnerships. Since 2016, it has immunised 198 million children. However, Gavi will require [renewed financial commitments](#) in 2020 to continue its work towards global vaccination targets. A fully funded Gavi will aim to reach a further 300 million children and save an additional 7-8 million lives during the period 2021-2025. In June 2020, the UK will host Gavi's next replenishment conference, making the next few months [a critical time](#) for the Government to commit to maintaining at least the UK's current level of support for Gavi.

2. Nutrition for Growth

Around half of all under-5 deaths around the world are linked to malnutrition, and children who survive often suffer permanent effects such as stunted growth and mental development, and are more susceptible to disease and illness. Undernourished children have reduced educational and employment prospects,

holding back the economic development of communities and countries. The UK has played a big role in the global fight against malnutrition, helping to establish the 'Nutrition for Growth' ('N4G') agenda, which increased nutrition spending worldwide by 33%. But the existing funding is running out and more is needed in 2020 to meet global nutrition targets. It is vital that nutrition remains a priority for the Government, and a big financial pledge at an event hosted by Japan in 2020 around the time of the Olympics will demonstrate the political will needed.

3. Education and climate change

Education is the cornerstone for sustainable development and it is vital for facing and fighting climate change, particularly for the most marginalised communities in the poorest countries. Yet, education for all is at risk from climate change, and education is neglected as part of the global climate response. The poorest children and young people in developing countries are most at risk in the climate crisis, because poverty means they are more vulnerable to, and less likely to be able to adapt to, the impacts of climate change.

High quality, safe and inclusive education contributes to poverty reduction by paving the way to better work, health and livelihoods. The UK Government should seize the opportunity it has in 2020, as host of the UN 'Conference of the Parties' (COP26), and as a world leader in global education, to take decisive action to stop climate change undermining the right to education, and strengthen education's role in the global climate response.

Take action!

1. Please arrange to visit your newly-elected MP, either soon after 12 December, or early in the new year. Once the election is over, you will be able to find their contact details at www.theyworkforyou.com or www.parliament.uk. Talk to them about why you care about international development issues and explain why the issues RESULTS is campaigning on in 2020 are vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. See [Background Sheet 2](#) for ideas for what you can ask your MP to do.

2. Plan your campaigning in 2020, using the information in this action sheet. Check out our [calendar and planning tool](#) to help you.

As always, please [let us know you've taken action](#) by emailing Dela at delanderson@results.org.uk.