

Shout about UK Aid!

UK Aid saves a life every 2 minutes. From giving 13.2 million people access to vital TB treatment since 2002, to ensuring over 10 million children are supported to get a good quality education, **we all know that UK Aid achieves incredible and inspiring things.** Back in March 2015, thanks to the hard work of campaigners like you, we celebrated the UK's enshrining in law a commitment to spend 0.7% of our Gross National Income (GNI) on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Since then, UK Aid continues to do amazing work, such as funding programmes tackling violence against women and girls in 29 different countries, and giving 280,000 people affected by the Nepal earthquake access to lifesaving shelter. **For such a tiny percentage of GNI, UK Aid has an immense impact. This is something everyone should know about!** Over recent weeks, UK Aid has received negative press coverage in the national media. On the back of totally unfounded allegations, the Mail on Sunday has initiated a debate in Parliament on 13th June, asking for the 0.7% legislation to be repealed. We must ensure that as many MPs as possible attend the debate and speak up for the benefits of UK Aid. **Please take action and shout about UK Aid!**

UK Aid achieves incredible and inspiring things...

In the last 5 years, UK Aid has provided almost 20 million food rations for Syrian refugees. Development programmes are helping schools in Kenya to build new toilets and water tanks. This is just a snapshot into the life-saving things that UK Aid is achieving every day. We think this is something worth shouting about!



How is UK Aid spent and how much do we know about it?

UK Aid refers to money spent by the UK Government on development programmes, funded by the taxpayer. All UK Aid is required to have a focus on poverty reduction. Most of this money is spent by the Department for International Development (DfID), with some spent by other departments such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

UK aid programmes are among the most transparent in the world. The independent [Aid Transparency Index](#) has rated DfID programmes as 'very good' on transparency. The Independent Commission on Aid

Impact (ICAI) also monitors UK Aid effectiveness and its reports are made public. What is more, details of every pound spent by the UK government on aid are published [online](#).

0.7% enshrined in law

In March 2015, the UK Parliament enshrined in law a 40 year old UN commitment to spend 0.7% of our GNI on international development. This equates to 7p for every £10 of the UK's national income. As the first G7 nation to enshrine this commitment in law, this is something we can be incredibly proud of. It demonstrates Britain's global leadership on creating a world in which no one is left behind.

During the 3rd reading of the bill in the House of Commons back in December 2014, 146 MPs turned up and voted to enshrine 0.7% in law, showing the strong level of cross party support that exists for UK Aid.

Why does the legislation matter?

Firstly, increasing the predictability of aid to poor countries helps doctors, nurses, teachers and other providers of services in those countries to plan their work better, and means that our government can make smart long-term investments based on UK growth forecasts, ensuring we get better value for money for every pound spent.

Secondly, the cross-party consensus on the amount of aid we give shouldn't be revisited every year when the

really important debate is about how we spend the money. Putting our promises to the poorest beyond the day to day debates of party politics means policy-makers can focus on how we continue to improve the quality of aid, instead of having an annual debate on whether we intend to stick to our commitments about the quantity.

Because this target is a percentage rather than a set figure, this legislation pegs our aid to the performance of the UK economy. When times are good, we give more, and when life is tough, we give a little less.

All the major parties wanted to be accountable to parliament and the public for meeting this promise year on year, in much the same way that international standards are regularly incorporated into British law to ensure full compliance and to secure the full confidence of our international partners.

Negative Press Coverage of UK Aid

Over the last month, UK Aid has received considerable levels of attack in national media outlets, with allegations that ODA money funds terrorism and wasteful projects. These accusations began with a front page article in the Mail on Sunday, and stories about the amount of money the UK spends on aid were also covered by several other papers, including the Daily Mail, The Express, The Telegraph and The Sun.

The Mail on Sunday also launched a petition to force a debate in Parliament, asking for the removal of the legal requirement to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on ODA. This petition exceeded the 100,000 target needed to trigger a debate, and so there will now be a **debate in Westminster Hall on Monday 13th June at 4.30pm.**

The Facts

It is important to state that these allegations are totally unfounded. DfID has already set the record straight in a statement which you can read [here](#).

DfID stresses that the accusations are 'simply incorrect' and are based on misrepresentations of projects. UK Aid money is spent where it is most needed and is subject to rigorous internal and external checks and scrutiny at all stages.

What Can You Do About It? Shout about UK Aid!

Whilst this negative press may have made the national news, too often, the real impact of UK Aid goes unreported. Over the next month, we want to share positive aid stories as far and wide as possible. We want to encourage as many MPs as we can to attend the debate, speaking out in favour of UK Aid, as an issue their constituents feel passionately about. We may not be able to change the mind of the author of the Mail on Sunday report, but we have an unprecedented opportunity to shape public attitudes on aid within our local communities.

Armed with some of the inspiring facts on UK Aid and the case studies below on the issues RESULTS campaigns on, we're asking you to take action and shout about UK Aid!

Whether that's writing to your MP or getting a great piece in the local news, let's get everyone talking about the lifesaving impact of UK Aid.

Reasons to feel proud of UK Aid:

- UK Aid saves a life every 2 minutes.
- It has given 13.2 million people access to vital TB treatment since 2002.
- It has ensured over 10 million children are supported to get a good quality education.
- In the last 5 years, UK Aid has provided almost 20 million food rations for Syrian refugees.
- UK Aid programmes are amongst the most transparent in the world.

For more inspiration check out this article from Global Citizen on the [12 Things Achieved by UK Aid That You'll Probably Never See in The Daily Mail](#), or this great BuzzFeed piece about how [It's Not just Bono and Bill Gates Who Think Overseas Development Aid is a Good Idea](#).

UK Aid ... A spotlight on Gavi, the Vaccines Alliance.

18.7 million children continue to be excluded from receiving basic immunisation worldwide, every year. But UK aid is helping. The UK Government has been a global leader in the fight against preventable and treatable child health through their support for Gavi, the Vaccines Alliance. In January 2015, the UK pledged £1 billion to Gavi, which will help immunise over 76 million children and save 1.4 million lives, the equivalent of saving a life every two minutes. Immunisation is great value for money – every \$1 investment is estimated to reap \$16 return in economic progress.

UK Aid ... Helping women and children survive and thrive through better nutrition.

Undernutrition contributes to around half of all deaths of children under five and a fifth of all maternal deaths, affecting hundreds of millions of lives. Undernourished children who survive don't develop properly, and are unable to reach their full potential as adults. Since 2010, the UK government has been scaling up nutrition programmes such as vitamin supplementation, and has also rolled out programmes in agriculture and social protection which also help to improve nutrition. In 2013, the UK hosted a 'Nutrition for Growth' conference, pledging £1.2 billion for nutrition programmes. In 2011, DFID committed to improve the nutrition of 20 million children and women by 2015. Over this period, DFID surpassed its commitment, and reached 28.5 million children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women (Source: [DFID's annual review 2014-15](#)).

Take action!

1. **Please write to or email your MP, asking them to attend the Westminster Hall debate on 13th June and to speak out in favour of UK aid.** You could share with them some examples of positive aid stories and explain why the UK's commitment to 0.7% is important to you. Did your MP vote on 0.7% back in December 2014? If so, then that could be a good hook for the start of your letter.

You can offer in your letter that if your MP is willing to attend and speak at the debate, you can provide them with a full briefing on the effectiveness of aid, focusing on areas that they are interested in. **If your MP lets you know they will attend the debate, please email madeline.moore@results.org.uk or call 020 7793 3970 to tell us and we can send you a tailored MP briefing to give to them ahead of the debate.**

Remember that you can find your MP's contact details [here](#). With just 1 month to go until the debate, please try and take this action within the next 2 weeks.

2. **You could arrange to meet with your MP** ahead of the debate in their constituency office, or if you're coming to the Advocacy Day at the [RESULTS National Conference](#) you'll be in Parliament on the day, so could even ask for a brief meeting immediately prior to them joining the debate at 4.30pm.
3. **Why not get an article in your local newspaper explaining why UK taxpayers can be proud of life saving aid?** For tips on writing a letter to the editor or getting a piece in the comments section, [see here](#). Remember that letters in your local paper are often read carefully by your MP, who will use them as a barometer for what constituents are thinking about different issues.
4. **Take to Twitter, or post on Facebook!** Use social media to share the incredible things UK Aid achieves within your networks. You can create your own posts using the case studies below, or share these articles from [Global Citizen](#), [The Guardian](#) and [Buzzfeed](#).

Thank you for taking action!